



ON THE RUN

Blind Dave joins 10k race for charity



PAGE 9

NIGHT OUT

Black Country food and fun at museum



PAGE 22

Yobs are made to meet their victims

YOBS who vandalised cars in Stourbridge have been made to meet their victims by police as part of a rehabilitation project.

Two boys, aged 13 and 12, and a 15-year-old girl were also made to hand over a total of £776 to pay for repairs, as part of a 'restorative justice' scheme.

Pc Reg Steele and Pc Vivek Rai organised the meeting at Halesowen police station after damage was caused to a number of cars in the Lye area.

Scratched

The first offences dated back to June when a resident in Lye reported their Mercedes and Hyundai cars had been scratched.

Investigations revealed the offence had been captured on CCTV, which led to the identification of the two. Both admitted using stones to scratch the cars.

In a separate act, a 15-year-old girl admitted throwing pink paint over a Vauxhall and an Audi on July 22. Police received a tip-off that she had been bragging about it.

Pc Steele said: "The trio all admitted their involvement and as none of them had any previous convictions we approached the owners of the cars to see if they would be happy to deal with the matter out of court."

Chance to be in town panto

A THEATRE company is appealing for more people to tread the boards in its annual pantomime.

Halesowen-based Star-time Variety will present Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood at the town's Cornbow Hall in January.

The group is on the lookout for new members aged 16 and over who are interested in getting involved. The show will run from January 28 to 31. Call 0121 550 3899.

VICIOUS ATTACK ON FARMER, 70

By Jon Pritchard

A 70-year-old farmer needed surgery after being attacked and viciously beaten with his own walking stick outside his home, near Halesowen

The attack happened at Lapal Farm, Illey Lane, this week and the farmer suffered such serious facial injuries, including a broken nose, that doctors feared that he would lose an eye.

He also had to have an operation on Tuesday to set his arm, which was broken during the attack by a younger man.

The intruder grabbed the man's walking stick and struck him over the head several times with it, breaking his nose, giving him deep cuts and causing severe blood loss.

His partner, who did not wish to be named, said he was recovering well in hospital.

Detective Sergeant Leighton Shingles, of West Midlands Police CID, said: "The farmer's injuries are so severe that at one point doctors feared he may lose an eye."

Surgery

"Fortunately, this is no longer the case but he still requires surgery for a broken arm and he also has a broken nose."

Forensic experts are looking at the site and are trawling the area for CCTV which may show an image of the attacker.

Police are now appealing for information on the assault which took place at about 5am on Monday after the farmer saw a shadowy figure outside his home, opposite the Black Horse pub, and went to investigate.

He was confronted by a man who originally said he had stopped for a cigarette but, when questioned further, the man launched a brutal attack on the farmer owner.

The attacker is described as a stocky, white man aged in his early 40s.

He was wearing a dark sleeveless bomber jacket over a check shirt and dark trousers.

Det Sgt Shingles added: "We are appealing to anyone who may have seen this man acting suspiciously in the area to contact us as soon as possible."

Anyone with information should contact the police on 101, or alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Academy's new boss is appointed

A NEW principal has been appointed at an academy after the previous head retired after almost 40 years at the school.

Vince Green has been installed at Bristnall Hall Academy in Oldbury, by the Academy Transformation Trust, after the retirement of Steve Venross in July.

Mr Green's most recent role was as deputy headteacher at The Phoenix Collegiate school in West Bromwich. While there, he helped to increase the proportion of students achieving five or more A* to C GCSE grades including English and maths.

Prior to this he was deputy headteacher at an academy in Telford, where he helped the school rise from inadequate to outstanding status.

He said: "I'm delighted to be leading this inspiring academy and we will build on its current strengths and achievements to take it to the next level on its journey to outstanding."

"I share the trust's belief that all children deserve a first class education which nurtures potential. Working in partnership with our sponsor, I will ensure pupils have access to the best possible opportunities."

Bristnall Hall Academy will be hosting an open evening on Tuesday.

Bingo booster for charity



Eyes down — fundraisers get ready for the bingo bonanza in aid of Acorns Hospice

FUNDRAISERS are holding a bingo night to generate cash for a children's hospice. The group are hoping for a full house at Mecca Bingo in Oldbury in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice.

Claire Groom, 37, from Kingswinford is a founding member of the fundraising group. Her daughter Isla was born with Edwards Syndrome, a genetic condition. Isla died in December 2012 aged 22 months.

Isla received care at the Walsall hospice and her mother is appealing for people to show their support for the charity.

Claire said: "We know only too well of the wonderful work that Acorns does and we need people to come along to enjoy a fun night of bingo and to help raise vital funds."

It takes place at Mecca Bingo on Thursday, October 2, at 6.30pm. Tickets cost £10, call 07972 774228.

Family's pain over death of sister, 48

THE family of a 48-year-old woman who was found dead in a Smethwick street have spoken of their heartache as they paid tribute to her.

Police launched a murder investigation following the discovery of Glynis Bensley in Cheshire Road.

Her brother Adrian Bensley said: "Our family is heartbroken and in deep shock. We cannot believe that anyone would want to cause harm to our lovely sister."

Glynis, who was one of nine siblings, was pronounced dead last Wednesday. A 14-year-old boy was arrested in connection with her death on Thursday afternoon. He has been released on bail while inquiries continue.

DCI Sam Ridding said: "We are still piecing together all of the information we have gathered to determine Glynis' last movements and what led to her tragic death."

"Our thoughts remain with Glynis' family and friends, who are devastated by what has happened, and specially trained officers are working with them at this time."

"We continue to appeal to anyone who was in the Cheshire Road area on Wednesday evening to contact us on either 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Road closed for gas work

A ROAD in the Black Country has been closed to traffic as part of work to revamp gas mains.

Trinity Street in Cradley Heath will be shut until September 19 between Haden Road and Halesowen Road.

Traffic will be diverted via Halesowen Road, which is temporarily one-way, Reddall Hill Road, and Lawrence Lane.

The project involves National Grid replacing gas pipes on Halesowen Road.

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CONTENTS	
Peter Rhodes	4
Feature	6
Letters	7
Rep Review	10
What's On	22
TV Guide	23 - 25
Puzzler	26
Property	27
Motoring	31
Sport	39 & 40

CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex-ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk
Tom Mason: 01902 319550
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Katy-Rose Meaney: 01384 353201
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 Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

Advertising

Nicky Cope
 Tel: 01902 319753
 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring

Liz Barratt
 Tel: 01384 353244
 E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution:

Paul Jones
 Tel: 01902 319990
 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Meeting to air views on bus changes

TRANSPORT bosses have promised to host a public meeting to discuss controversial changes to bus services across Dudley and Sandwell.

Bus passengers say they are facing upheaval after changes in a dozen services including routes to and from the Merry Hill shopping centre.

National Express West Midlands has revised services in parts of Dud-

ley and Sandwell. Some passengers claim the changes were not adequately communicated

Petition

Hundreds of residents in Halesowen, Blackheath, Cradley Heath and Old Hill signed a petition after the axing of the 297 and 205 services left them without a direct route to Russells Hall Hospital.

The meeting, which is being organised by Labour's Parliamentary Candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, Stephanie Peacock, is being held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Old Hill High Street at 6pm on Tuesday, September 16.

National Express have confirmed a representative will attend. Spokesman, Jack Kelly, said: "This meeting will allow us to

discuss how the recent review has affected local resident and explain in person how changing local travel patterns have required us to alter some routes."

"However, it is important to stress that I can make no guarantees on service changes on the day and that many of the changed routes are now much more reliable than prior to the changes."

Disqualified driver is put back behind bars

A PROLIFIC offender was back behind bars after his ninth conviction for driving while disqualified – despite never having had a driving licence.

Shane O'Rourke, 26, ran a red light at a busy junction in Brierley Hill after he was spotted by plain clothes police behind the wheel of a Vauxhall Zafira on May 28, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Vikings got beady eyes on museum

VIKINGS will be invading Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford as part of National Heritage Open Day on Saturday.

The Svartgard Living History Society will be attending the event in full Viking costume and putting on an array of displays including arts and crafts in the garden.

They will be exhibiting various textile crafts as well as an armoury display and arrow making. Also present will be a fur and spice traders, a fisherman, a basket weaver and a metal worker.

Tillerman Beads will be demonstrating glass making at the event, also in full Viking costume, with a wide selection of glass beads for sale. They will be speaking about the art of bead making in times gone by.

People can ask questions and handle the tools and armour or enjoy a game of Hnefatafi, a Viking board game. The group will also be putting on displays of fighting for the crowds.

There will also be a children's craft fair where children can make their own helmets, where a small charge will apply.

The event is from 10am to 4pm and is free.

Reversed

The car reversed at speed, swung onto the wrong side of the road and went through the busy junction of Moor Street and High Street, when the traffic lights were on red.

O'Rourke, who had a total of 33 previous convictions, was arrested two days later.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said: "He was on his way to sell it when seen by the officers. He has not passed a driving test, never had a legitimate licence and takes a pragmatic approach to the sentence he can expect."

O'Rourke, of Blackacre Road, Dudley, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and having no insurance.

He was jailed for six months with a two year driving ban by Judge Mark Eades who told him: "Here we are again. This has become a routine for you. You go to prison, do your spell of time, come out, get caught driving while disqualified and go to prison again. Hopefully one day you will grow up and think a bit more about the risks of your behaviour to other people."

"You should be ashamed of yourself but I suspect you are not."

Hospital volunteer retires



Tony Smith with Gwen Timmins MBE and nurses from the ward at Russells Hall

A HOSPITAL volunteer who has helped raise more than £100,000 for a ward has retired following 13 years of service.

Tony Smith was initially admitted to hospital suffering severe back injuries in an accident at work. After seven years of treatment at the pain relief ward he began fundraising and set up the Support Group for Pain Relief with fellow patient Gwen Timmins. The group ran fundraising stalls at fairs in the region until the ward moved to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley where

sales are held in the hospital reception. In 13 years it raised a total £107,000.

Last week Mr Smith, aged 66, from Halesowen, had to step down due to increasing chronic pain. The group will continue under the management of Mrs Timmins, aged 71, who was awarded an MBE for her work supporting hospitals. She said: "Tony has done a great job and will be missed." Mr Smith added: "I'm sad to be leaving but the pain has got so bad I'm struggling to make it to the hospital on a regular basis."

Victim is taking his first steps in hospital

A YOUNG man who was knocked down in a hit-and-run has been able to take his first steps after the accident, his family have revealed.

Lewis Yale, aged 22, is conscious following the accident in Dudley Road East, Tivdale, near Oldbury, in the early hours of August 31

He remained in Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital with a close relative saying he will have an operation to treat his facial fractures.

Investigations are continuing into the circumstances of the incident which happened at around midnight. Mr Yale was found seriously injured in a road after being struck by a car, possibly a silver Ford Fiesta, moments after getting off a bus on his way back home from work.

Officers revealed that other motorists drove round him as he lay injured in the street, until an off-duty police officer came to his aid.

A relative, who asked not to be named, said: "He has been able to take a little walk, so he is improving. He has done really well so far but he has still got to have a further operation on his face and nose."

Anyone with information is asked to call the police on 101.

Cricketers in charity boost

TWO teams of cricketers raised money for a charity supporting children in Eastern Europe following a recent friendly match.

Dudley Patels took on a team of fathers from Stourbridge Cricket Club.

The event, which included a barbecue and a raffle, raised £505 for the Kinver and Wolverhampton branch of the Chernobyl Children's Life Line.

The charity brings children living with the health implications of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster that hit Ukraine and Belarus to the UK on four-week holidays.

Health agenda

HEALTH bosses will hold a board meeting this afternoon and are inviting the public to attend.

Board members of Dudley Clinical Commission Group will meet at the Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre, in Venture Way, on Thursday from 1pm to 4pm.

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Public help in bid to track down dog killer

AN APPEAL launched after a dog was discovered outside a primary school has had a 'good response' with officers at the RSPCA working on several lines of enquiry.

The male Staffie Mastiff cross dog was discovered dead close to Kates Hill Primary School in Dudley four weeks ago.

The dog's death sparked outrage in the community, with several people offering rewards for information, including Dudley North MP Ian Austin and a millionaire businessman.

RSPCA spokesman Andy Robbins said no-one had yet been arrested but they were working on a number of lines of enquiry.

He said: "There is not much which can be said publicly as the investigation is ongoing. We did have a number of calls from the public with information and we are grateful. There has been a good response."

The RSPCA is investigating with West Midlands Police.

A passer-by found the animal tied to a railing 15ft above street level in Bishop Close, in the early hours of June 28. The dog, which was estimated to be between one and two-years-old, was not micro-chipped.

1,000 apply for 30 jobs

MORE than 1,000 people applied for just 30 jobs at a new store opening at Merry Hill. The combined Simply Be and Jacamo shop will open at the Brierley Hill centre later this month.

Bosses revealed they had received an 'overwhelming' number of applications for the positions.

Deputy store manager, Sarah Fisher, said: "The standard of applicants was incredibly high but I'm confident that we've found the right people for the store."

"We have recruited a great bunch of people from the local community."

Furniture fire

DAMAGE was caused to two houses after furniture piled up in a passage between the properties caught light.

Firefighters said it is believed that the fire in Birmingham New Road, Tividale, on Thursday evening had been started by a discarded cigarette.

Landmark church is forced to close down



St Luke's Church, High Street, Cradley Heath

A CHURCH in Cradley Heath which has been part of the community since early Victorian times is to close due to costs.

A repair bill of £750,000 is forcing the closure of St Luke's after almost 170 years of worship. The congregation of the church at High Street will move to St John's Church in Dudley Wood after a final service on next month.

The Rev Alicia Baker said work was needed to make the church 'useable' including replacing the roof. Church leaders decided they couldn't afford the work. She said: "Because of the huge cost of repairs to the building, approximately £750,000, it's

time for the congregation to move on. The church council decided that the building was becoming in such a bad state of repair that it was going to become unusable.

Bills

"The congregation was diminishing in size and we weren't managing to pay our bills. We had to pay at the time £12,000 to the diocese every year, and we weren't managing to pay that. It's sad for people that the church is closing but at least there will be a building on the High Street to be used by the community."

"Over recent years we have joined together for worship and social events (at St John's) as well as fundraising and community work, so the pain of leaving our beloved building will be lessened knowing that we have a welcoming place waiting for us. It also means that weddings, baptisms and funerals will now take place at St John's."

An open day is held at St Luke's on Saturday, September 20, from 10am to 4pm for anyone who would like to have a last look. Bishop of Dudley, the Right Rev Graham Usher, will lead the final act of worship at 10.30am on October 19 and there will be a procession from St Luke's to St John's.

'Baby' Jenny meets IVF pioneer at graduation

By Alex Ross

SHE was frozen for three months and then grew inside her mother for another nine and now Jenny Watkins says she was privileged to be among the first five babies born through a pioneering technique of IVF.

Her birth brought joy to parents Roy and Karen, who after borrowing money from friends and family for the £15,000 treatment, finally ended a struggle to have a child of their own.

And now, 21 years after her birth, Jenny, of Newlands Road, Halesowen, met the pioneering fertility scientist who helped make it possible, Lord Robert Winston, who was awarded with an honorary doctorate by Birmingham City University.

After speaking to him ahead of a graduation ceremony for business and healthy faculty students, she also backed his calls to make IVF treatment more accessible across the country.

Parenthood

She said: "IVF is a really positive thing. It can bring so much happiness to couples who otherwise would not be able to enjoy parenthood."

Jenny's parents had to save up and borrow cash to pay for the expensive treatment. They had five cycles at the Midland Fertility Clinic in Aldridge before success.

The former pupil at Leasowes High School in Halesowen, studied law at Birmingham City University, and was awarded first class honours this week. She works for the students' union at the university.

She said: "As a child growing up I didn't understand what had happened, it was only when I got to 13 or 14 that I was able to get a grip of how I was born. I grew to look at it as a really positive thing. I thought about the work behind it, it is a bit of a miracle."

"It's people like Lord Winston who have made it all possible and I'm very appreciative of that, it's great to meet him and shake his hand," she said.

She added: "I would totally support calls for easier access to IVF. It is also expensive, so any way the price could be brought down for parents, the better."



Lord Winston with Jenny Watkins at Birmingham City University graduation

Lord Winston has long campaigned for greater access to IVF treatment for couples. But he said treatment was currently under-provided and private patients were paying too much.

He said: "It is something which should be more widely available to people. There were 47,000 people who received IVF treatment last year, but there are 400,000 infertile women in this country."

The Labour peer has also called for better training among doctors to recognise possible alternatives.

He added: "I can't pretend it's amazing meeting someone like Jenny because of the number of IVF babies I meet but it's lovely to see people who have been born that way and how they have grown up."

During the graduation ceremony, Lord Winston urged the graduates to provide

quality patient care in their new jobs. He said: "It is not the NHS which is your responsibility, it is the patient in front of you."

"It is important for all of you to recognise that you should try and listen to the patient in front of you, that is a vital part of the health service to them."

Listen

"I want you to remember that you are in front of someone who is deeply vulnerable, spiritually naked, full of anxiety and concerned about money for their family because of hospital."

"They are also concerned there maybe something wrong with them. You must listen to them."

Lord Winston has presented numerous award-winning TV and radio series, including The Secret Life of Twins, Child of Our



Robert Winston pictured with baby Jenny in the 1990s

Time and the BAFTA award-winning The Human Body.

He has also written over 20 books and has published more than 300 scientific articles.

In the 1970s he developed techniques to improve fertility treatments and later pioneered improvements in IVF.

He said: "In accepting an honorary degree at Birmingham City University, I am greatly privileged."

"This large university's important commitment to education - not only for its own students in so many subjects, but for training students who will improve education at all ages including early years - is very dear to my heart."

He added: "Institutions like this make a massive difference to our society and to the welfare of the next generation."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Revived carnival to honour Tommy

BLACK Country comedian Tommy Mondon is to be honoured when a carnival is revived in his memory.

Organisers of Halesowen Carnival have revealed plans to remember the popular Halesonian, who died in July at the age of 80, when the carnival returns after an absence of more than 20 years on July 4 next year.

Carnival committee chairman Simon Walker plans to invite Mr Mondon's family to the carnival in Huntingtree Park. Mr Walker said: "He was a lovely bloke and a respected comic."

Chance to solve murder in library

HALESOWEN Library will be the setting for a Victorian themed murder mystery evening on Wednesday.

Doors open at 6.30pm for Who killed George Hargrave, in which award-winning crime novelist Martin Edwards will challenge visitors to test their investigation skills.

The event is in the Shenton Theatre on level 7 in the library from 7pm.

Tickets including refreshments cost £3. Call (01384) 812980 for tickets.

New base is open for suicide charity

A CHARITY that works to prevent suicides among the young is to open a West Midlands office.

Papyrus, founded in 1997 by a group of parents who had lost children through suicide, is launching its new office in Vyse Street, Birmingham, this week. The charity runs the HopeLine phone service. Call 0800 068 41 41, text 07786 209 697, or email pat@papyrus-uk.org

Boats and beer and canal festival

LOCAL beers will be on sale in the real ale tent at the Black Country Boating Festival this weekend.

The event is along the Dudley Canal at the Bumblehole Nature Reserve, Windmill End, Netherton, on Saturday and Sunday and Campaign for Real Ale members are running the beer tent open from noon each day.

Women injured

TWO women were taken to hospital with minor injuries after a car ended up on its roof in an accident at a Dudley junction. Emergency services were called to Castle Gate Island at 9.20pm on Friday.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A READER asks, rather unkindly, "This ice-bucket challenge thing. Is it just a cheap alternative to a weekend in Wales?"

MEREDYDD Hughes, head of South Yorkshire Police between 2004 and 2011, was damned by one tabloid for concentrating on speeding offences instead of child abusers. So let us turn the clock back to 2004. Tony Blair is prime minister. Charles Clarke is Home Secretary. Harriet Harman is Solicitor-General. And Chief Constable Hughes suddenly declares: "My priority is to stop Pakistani men raping little girls." He would have been sacked so fast you wouldn't have seen him for dust. Cops may share the guilt but the blame for this nightmare goes all the way to Downing Street.

THERE'S just one snag with the new school targets on grammar. The teachers can't teach. Alice Philips, president of the Girls' Schools Association, says thousands of young teachers have "little or no grounding in English language or grammar." We are steadily becoming an illiterate nation, blessed with the finest language this planet has ever seen but quite unable to use it.

SO the Czech Republic with a population of just 10 million has proton-beam cancer treatment but the United Kingdom, with six times the population, does not. Two things that we Brits are supposed to cherish have been exposed as rubbish in the Ashya King saga — British justice and the NHS.

DESPITE spending millions on adverts, the Army Reserve (formerly Territorial Army) signed up only 140 new recruits in the first six months of this year. No surprises there. The TA was traditionally a citizen army, to be mobilised in the event of general war. The Army Reserve is a subs' bench for any madcap adventure ordered by Downing Street. There is a world of difference between joining up to keep the Hun on the other side of the Channel and getting your head chopped off in Iraq for a cause you don't understand by a feral pack of demented jihadists from Cardiff.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Chiefs call for stricter betting shop rules

BETTING shops should be better regulated and forced to reduce stakes put down by gamblers on fixed odds betting machines, according to town hall bosses in Sandwell.

Sandwell Council has written to the Government demanding urgent action against the machines, where players bet on average £17 on each spin and £55 over one session.

Following a motion approved in June, the council has asked Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Sajid Javid to pass a law reducing the maximum stake on machines to £2 a spin. Councillors also want powers to stop more bookies opening in the district.

Council leader Darren Cooper said: "We don't want to be a nanny state but people after a few beers can go into the betting shops and blow a week's wages in minutes on one of these machines."

"The things are so easy to waste money away on. If we can at least restrict them to £2 a go, I believe people will find it easier to hold themselves back."

He added: "We also have the problem where we don't have the powers to restrict the number of betting shops, which are often in high numbers in areas of poverty. They are targeting poor people who dream about a big win."

Tom Watson, Labour MP

By Alex Ross

for West Bromwich East, has campaigned against the betting shop machines. John Spellar, Labour MP for Warley, also supported the motion from Sandwell Council. He has written to the authority saying he will take the matter up.

Earlier this year, The Campaign for Fairer Gambling revealed gamblers lost £24 million on betting shop machines.

The biggest losses were incurred in areas with the highest deprivation with people in Sandwell blowing £7.4m on the machines last year.

In a report with Sandwell Council's motion, officers said more than 80 per cent of profits at betting shops came from machines.

The report said: "This council believes that the increase in fixed odds betting terminals is causing significant problems."

Fire hub open day is a blast



Commander Marc Hudson and Paramedic Adam Aston with ten-year-old Amelia Edge, her aunt Kate Slimm and her son Finley Slimm, from Halesowen

HUNDREDS of families came together to mark the opening of a new fire station, which aims to better serve the community in Halesowen and Cradley Heath.

Crews moved into their new home at the state-of-the-art Haden Cross centre a month ago and on Saturday they welcomed in the public for a look around the new facilities.

As well as several fire prevention demonstrations, visitors to the station in Barrs Road enjoyed refreshments and a chance to look inside a fire engine.

The opening of the site follows the closure of the former Cradley Heath fire station in Mace Street. It comes two years after the station in Hagley Road in Halesowen was shut down.

Watch commander John Williams said: "After the initial period of facing a building site, we've now got everything fully in function to serve the public. It's a modern station which is well located on a main road which we hope will mean we can improve our times to get to emergencies."

Congestion concerns over plans at college

A SCHEME to build a multi-million arts centre at a college faces objections from residents concerned about congested nearby roads.

Halesowen College unveiled proposals to create a £3 million performing arts centre at its Whittingham Road campus.

It is the latest stage of a revamp at the site which is seeing £20m invested in replacing outdated buildings.

But some residents have concerns which have been lodged with Dudley Council's planning department.

Their concerns hinge on claims that roads are congested by traffic including students and staff parking while attending the college.

A decision is due over the planning application in the coming weeks.

If approved the building work could start by November, ready for the building to open in spring 2015.

Among those to object to the scheme is Woodridge Road resident Amy Parry who wrote: "It's irresponsible to build more college buildings without adequate parking for student."

Halesowen College bosses say the scheme would cut down the number of journeys made by students off site to use arts facilities elsewhere. Around 167 students currently take classes at Benjamin's, a function hall, in the town centre.

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Airport has had busiest month yet

BIRMINGHAM Airport had the busiest month in its history during August.

The airport, currently celebrating its 75th anniversary, saw more than a million passengers coming through the gates with most heading off on their summer holidays.

The figure of 1,104,831 smashed the previous monthly record, achieved back in August 2008, by 2.3 per cent.

It was the fifth consecutive record-breaking month for the airport, as April, May, June and July also saw previous monthly records smashed.

Last month's numbers were also an increase of 5.2 per cent over August last year.

It also saw a one per cent increase in long haul passenger traffic with flights operating to Beijing, Dubai, Delhi, Egypt, Islamabad, Jamaica, Mexico, New York and Toronto in August.

Chief executive Paul Kehoe said: "Passengers are voting with their feet and more and more are choosing to fly from Birmingham. The demand is clearly there, but we want to make sure this trend continues."

"We've invested significantly in recent years, including a newly extended runway, which allows departing aircraft to fly to more long haul destinations than ever before."

School meals — no such thing as a free lunch?

THERE is no such thing as a free lunch, according to the old saying.

And while youngsters up to the age of seven are now able to tuck into a school meal without their parents having to pay, as part of a drive to get kids eating healthier, it has come at a cost.

The Government has provided £1 billion to meet the costs of providing meals across the UK available to all pupils without means testing over the next two years.

A total of £150 million has been made available to improve schools' kitchen and dining facilities, with an additional £22.5m specifically to help smaller schools.

It is also hoped that the availability of free school meals will help reduce the obesity problem, with around 20 per cent of children currently classed as obese when they leave primary school.

Around 57,000 children in the West Midlands are benefitting from the change which came into force at the start of the new school term, with families saving on average £400 per child across the school year.

The Children's Society says the policy will help those who need it most with around 9,000 youngsters from low income families in the region that may not have previously qualified for a meal now getting one.

Sandwell youngsters will benefit the most, with 1,312

By Tim Spiers

children from deprived backgrounds getting their daily meal, compared to 878 in Walsall, 869 in Wolverhampton and 622 in Dudley.

But while there are few will argue with the principle of ensuring children get a healthy, balanced lunch, there have been concerns about the strains being placed on the local authorities which have had to put the plans in practice.

Councillor Tim Crumpton from Dudley added: "We received £855,308 from the Government for the free school meals programme. We are currently working out the best way of making sure we can provide a free school meals service using the money given to us."

"We believe we are giving the best service we can given the limited funding and reduced timescales we had to do this."

2,000 take to streets for city marathon



10K winner Phil Nicholls with Dan Brazier second, left, and Tipton Harrier Dean Hill third

MORE than 2,000 people competed in various elements of the Carver Wolverhampton City Marathon but only one took part in two.

Simon Groom became the first person in the history of the event to be allowed to both run and cycle.

The 41-year-old engineer from Wheaton Aston did the 12.4 mile cycle ride with two-year-old daughter Emilia on the back of his bike flanked by partner Annmarie and daughter Maddie on their bikes — then ran the half marathon solo long after the other competitors had left the start line on Sunday.

Race Director Mary Harding explained: "We are trying to promote family participation so we allowed him to do both events."

The marathon was won by Mike Flatley from Oldham in 2hrs 40mins 27secs.

Phil Nicholls, 30, from Perton, a member of Wolverhampton and Bilston athletics club, strode to an emphatic victory in the 10k run in 31:12, nearly five minutes ahead of the others, including second placed club mate Dan Brazier.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Have a say on zero hours contracts

RESIDENTS are being urged to have their say on zero-hour contracts. There has been criticism that staff given the contracts do not know if they have work from one week to the next.

Under the contracts employees agree to be available for work as and when required but no particular number of hours or times of work are specified. Up to a million workers are under these contracts.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is urging people to have their say by visiting www.gov.uk/government/consultations and clicking the link for zero hours employment contracts. He said: "People in Dudley on zero-hours contracts have told me it's impossible for them to budget from one week to the next."

Heritage sites opening for free

MUSEUMS and historic properties across the Black Country will be throwing open their doors to the public for free this week. Venues will be taking part in Heritage Open Days, an initiative to promote England's architecture.

For the first time Dudley Archives and Local History Centre will be taking part after moving to its new home next to the Black Country Living Museum. Kingswinford War Walks will be held from St Mary's Church, plus events at the Quaker Meeting House, Plowden & Thompson and Tudor Crystal at Dial Glassworks.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

AT the Nato conference in Gwent, the two men eyed each other up, the President of the United States came face-to-face with the Mayor of Newport and the Celtic Manor golf resort.

"I tried not to be overawed by the occasion, so I just shook him by the hand. But I think he could tell I was a little star-struck at being in the company of a man of his standing," said Barack Obama.

Actually, I might have made that bit up. Old Barry actually said everybody should go on holiday to Wales.

Why does that not surprise me. One of the weakest, most indecisive presidents in living memory is a big fan of the land which is famous for its largest population of sheep. Who would have thought it?

□□□□□

Talking about the delights of Wales, it seems a group of workmen in the Castle Vale area of Birmingham seem to have got a bit carried away with their love of the place when they put up a roadworks sign in the Welsh language.

The notice, in Chester Road, near Castle Vale, said: "Fyddal'r ceblau cables a systemau gweithio ar ran grid cenedlaethol yn hoffi i ymddiheurwn am unrhyw anhwylystod yn ystod hyn gwaith fodol."

"Unrhyw ymholiadu cysylltwch 0845 400 2 132."

And who could argue with that? I do think it will be lost on the Brummies though. As any Black Country mon will tell you, they think swearing makes you bilingual.

□□□□□

SAD to hear that Benefits Street star Fungi has had his house in James Turner Street, Winson Green, broken into.

Unsurprisingly, nothing was stolen, but Fungi understandably traumatised to find his property violated. He returned home to find his bedclothes changed and his kitchen fumigated.

□□□□□

POLITICIANS who do not believe in climate change should be 'crushed and buried,' according to Sir Paul Nurse, the new president of the British Science Association.

Now to be fair, when it comes to crushing and burying politicians, I'm usually as up for it as the next man, but I do think he is being a little over-selective.

Sounding slightly like a poor man's Bond villain, Sir Paul said: "Politicians can't play with science, they have to listen to scientists." Or else?

He added that some climate-change sceptics were 'serial offenders' who he wants to make 'ashamed of the things they say'. Or failing that, dropping them into a large tank of piranhas, no doubt.

On a totally different subject, the West Midlands has just experienced its coldest August since 1993. I'd better prepare for sleeping with the fishes...



M&B sign shines through the flames



Much of the building was damaged by fires



Springfield Brewery fire brigade years ago

Brewery to spring back for university

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT reveals ambitious plans for a campus and school at the derelict Springfield site

THE derelict former M&B Springfield Brewery site in Wolverhampton is to be transformed into a university campus and school under £60 million plans.

The University of Wolverhampton has agreed to buy the fire-ravaged brewery to create a centre to educate students wanting careers in the construction industry.

There are plans to redevelop the site to become the home of the new West Midlands University Technical College (UTC) for Construction, which the university is sponsoring along with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).

Excellence

And the university also plans to relocate its own School of Architecture and the Built Environment there.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton, Professor Geoff Layer, said: "This will provide a centre of excellence with the most comprehensive construction education and training not only in the country but in Europe."

An agreement to buy the 12-acre site which has been vacant since 1991 when the Mitchells & Butler brewery closed, has been reached with the aim to finalise the deal in the next few months.

It has not been revealed how much of the site, which dates back to 1873, will be preserved and which parts will be torn down. The brewery buildings were damaged by fires in 2004 and 2005.

The site had long been set aside for housing and more than £2 million was spent bringing buildings back to their



Councillor Peter Bilson, Geoff Layer the vice chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton and Tom Macdonald. Principal Designate at West Midlands

former glory so they could become 140 flats. But the full plans never went ahead. The UTC will provide education for 14 to 19-year-olds with a special focus on construction skills.

It will open in September 2015 on a temporary site before moving into new buildings at Springfield in September 2016.

The University's School of Architecture and the Built Environment, which is based within the city centre campus, provides courses in construction management, civil engineering, quantity

surveying, architecture and environmental management. It has around 1,000 students and is expected to grow by a third after the move.

Professor Layer said: "We are delighted to be working with the CITB in bringing this project together."

"This is hugely positive news for the construction industry and for Wolverhampton and the Black Country."

"The development will put the area on the map in terms of construction education and training and will mean that we can provide skills and educa-

tion from the age of 14, right through to senior professionals wanting to improve their own development. It is also exciting for the City of Wolverhampton."

It was a key factor for us to have this centre here in the city to support economic development by regenerating a brownfield site and creating jobs and providing the right skills needed by industry.

"This area has a history of manufacturing and once up and running the centre will provide future opportunities for people to continue adding to that heritage."

Tom Macdonald, principal designate of WMCUTC added: "Being able to build the WMCUTC on the Springfield Brewery site is great news."

"A formerly derelict site will now become the home of a world beating, state of the art UTC offering unique opportunities and high quality education for talented students from across the West Midlands."

Transform

"Uniquely the first group of students to join us in September 2015 will also get to work on the design and planning for the new build."

"In the years to come, the West Midlands Construction UTC will transform not only the career prospects of its students but the economy of a once derelict area of the city."

Councillor Peter Bilson, Wolverhampton City Council's deputy leader, said it was an exciting proposal.

"This will breathe new life into a vacant site and bring more jobs and opportunity to our city," he said.

"The construction sector has a major role to play in the overall regeneration and long-term prosperity of Wolverhampton."

"It is therefore important a skilled workforce is developed to take advantage of career opportunities that will arise over the next few years and this development can help us achieve that."

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

MUCH has been written this week concerning the whys and wherefores of Dudley South MP Chris Kelly's decision to stand down.

He is going to finish the job he was elected to do, rather than seek to renew his term of office.

But the big problem for the Conservatives is still one of timing, as much as it is the loss of yet another MP from the 2010 intake.

When Mr Kelly was chosen as the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate in 2007 there was the possibility of a snap election being called by the then relatively-new Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Labour's decision not to go to the country until 2010 gave the Tory candidate a good few years to get himself known in the area, get to grips with local matters and build up support not just for the party, but personally. Now there are just eight months to go.

If the Tories are to have any hope of a majority then they have to hold on to every single seat they won in 2010 and gain more.

David Cameron cannot afford to lose Dudley South or let go of Cannock Chase, Halesowen and Rowley Regis, Stafford, Stourbridge or Wolverhampton South West.

Chris Kelly's reasons for going are, he says, personal. Even so, there is a pattern the Conservatives have to address.

As many as nine of the 2010 intake - including Cannock Chase's Aidan Burley - are throwing in the towel. Mr Burley's reasons are also of his own making. Had he not gone to a stag party where the groom wore a Nazi uniform, his career might not have been as brief.

Being the incumbent MP usually brings advantages if the candidate has a record in office they can stand by. The task for untested Labour candidates is now much easier than it was a few months ago. They will have been out on the streets, knocking doors for longer than the Tories brought in to replace sitting MPs.

The 2015 election will be fought on multiple fronts, with UKIP taking votes from all sides. It is hardly the ideal time for rookies.

George Osborne is like a good house guest. When he turns up in the West Midlands he brings a present.

A recent visit to the Black Country saw him promise funding for the long-awaited new super hospital in Smethwick - something that had been drawn up under Labour but wasn't delivered.

And when he went to Screwfix in Cannock he was the one who announced lots of new jobs on the way. It is a remarkable turnaround for a man who was booed at the Olympics because of his 'omnishambles' budget to now be the one able to say to the electorate 'we told you so'.

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Commissioner role is waste of money Correctness is a monster

YET another very low turn out to vote for a police commissioner, which they blame on the holiday season and need for a quick election. The truth of the matter is that people are not interested in such a post.

Each candidate is affiliated to a political party and I would suggest there would have been a slightly better turnout if a candidate were a member of the public and their only allegiance would be to their role of police commissioner and not a political party. The public are very wary of politicians and what the say they will do.

The word commissioner stirs up images of America, we already have to much of their ways. Our prime minister, when making a speech, stands behind a podium similar to their president, we have even got to the stage that when the national anthem is played I have seen members of the public with their arm across their chest.

The role of commissioner is neither required or wanted by the public, it is just a waste of tax payers' money.

**P LOWE
BRIERLEY HILL**

IT has long been my belief that political correctness is rotting the very fabric of our society.

What was originally a noble attempt to clarify the way that all citizens should fairly interact in a society has spawned a monster that throttles free discussion and censures truth.

A major element of the current Rotherham child scandal is the effect of the creature's growth.

All should be treated as equal before the law. The colour of one's skin or one's religion should never enter into the equation. As it was, undoubtedly, a factor in this disaster. The fear of the word 'racism' which is now used as a shield to protect all manner of unacceptable practices. In this case it has resulted in 1,400 youngsters being scarred for life mentally and physically.

**A M ETHERIDGE
SEDGLEY**

Bid to help campaign for theatre

RE Friends of Dudley Hippodrome — I have to say that I saw a statement that said 'we need to raise £5,000 so that we can become a charity that will allow us to try and access funds for charity organisations'.

You do not have to do this, all you have to do to form a constitution and have three trustees.

Of course, this has to be done properly. There are plenty of opportunities were funding can be obtained.

I myself am a trustee of a local charity and understand how to access funding. I fully support what they are trying to achieve and would like to offer my help again.

I also hope that all our councillors, when asked their views on the Hippodrome, that they will not be ruled by a chief whip who has told them to not comment. Don't forget you were elected to serve your electorate that voted you into council. They have the right to know.

**STEVE DANIELS
UKIP NETHERTON,
WOODSIDE &
ST ANDREWS**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Parliament does not listen to the people

TIME and time again the subject of immigration keeps coming up. When the Conservatives formed a coalition in 2010 they blamed Labour for the amount of asylum seekers coming into Britain and Cameron said he was going to get it down below the hundred thousand mark. Four years on the latest figures show that 250,000 have come in.

None of the main parties seem to be either concerned about the figures and the majority of people in the country cannot understand why the coalition cannot get the numbers down. It has been said that if the present amount of people keep coming in, in the next 20 years we will need to create 20 more cities the size of Birmingham.

Nobody in Parliament is listening. The people do not want the numbers coming in reduced, they want it halted. Ask the MPs to look at my lips, 'zero'. This country is overflowing.

We are much smaller than Australia, America, France, Germany and Russia.

This country would be so much better off in our NHS, schools and employment if the population was halted.

So, please Mr Cameron, Nick Clegg, Ed Miliband, listen to the people of this country and act on why the people of the country voted for you.

We are sick of all of the promises that you keep peddling out to us and fail to carry out. We want action.

**B WHITEHOUSE
KINGSWINFORD**

Need to bag information

I am hoping to enlist the help of readers to make sure that a piece of Bilston's history is not forgotten. I began as a driver for Bilston Service Laundry, Vulcan Road in 1959. The laundry provided a 'bag wash' service in the 50s and 60s for people in the Black Country, Wolverhampton and a large area of Birmingham so I was astonished when my searches failed to provide any mention of Bilston Service Laundry. If readers have any memories contact me at trevorworrall@blueyonder.co.uk or on 07932604893.

**T WORRALL
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Asbestos link with death of carpenter

A FORMER carpenter died just two weeks after being diagnosed with an illness connected to working with asbestos, an inquest heard.

Leslie Cowley, 78, of Lightwoods Road, Stourbridge, died at New Cross Hospital, in Wolverhampton, with mesothelioma on May 11.

Senior coroner for the Black Country Robin Balmain said a pathologist's report found no asbestos fibres in his system but only a low level exposure to asbestos was enough to cause the disease.

His wife Hazel told the inquest at Smethwick Council House that he had been a self-employed builder and carpenter.

She said: "He never spoke to me about asbestos but he probably used it because he would take pieces out of old buildings."

His son Adrian, said: "It happened so quick. He went in for a heart operation and found this and in two weeks he was gone."

Mr Balmain recorded that Mr Cowley died from an industrial disease.



Sims Vintage Shop boss Phil Sims hands the watches found in the ginger pot back to Steve Bubb

It's pot luck in the search for family's tick tock treasures

THEY are family treasures worth more than £3,000 but were presumed lost forever. That was until the five watches in question were found sealed in a ginger jar set to be sold off with a price tag of just £20.

Steven Bubb was 'gobsmacked' when friend and antiques dealer Phil Sims made the discovery. Mr Bubb had passed on the jar with other items to be sold after a clear-out.

The watches were last seen by the 58-year-old cider firm boss more than 10 years ago but went missing and were feared lost after fruitless searches through his home in Clent.

Mr Bubb believed they had been misplaced by his mother Joan, who died three years ago, but it appears the Alzheimer's sufferer had put them in the jar to keep them safe and then forgot all about them. The

watches include two that belonged to Mr Bubb's grandfather Henry Holland, one he had while serving in the First World War and the other a 22 carat gold pocket watch. There was also a diamond watch Mr Bubb received from his grandmother Bertha Bubb and a silver chain watch given to him by a relative.

"Phil phoned up and said 'I don't think you realise what you have given me'," said Mr Bubb. "I said what?", and he replied 'all the watches you have been looking for over the years'. I was completely gobsmacked. The watches meant so much and I had been really upset they had gone."

Mr Sims started Sims Vintage Shop, near Belbroughton, this summer and BBC TV's Antiques Road Trip will be visiting for its next series.

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On track for square to become Goldbury

A TOWN square will be transformed into a sports arena as Oldbury becomes Goldbury in honour of triathlete Jodie Stimpson.

The event has been organised to coincide with a civic reception to celebrate Jodie's success at the Commonwealth Games. People of all ages will be able to take part in a mini-triathlon on Saturday.

There will be a running track, exercise bikes and rowing machines set up in the town square, while prizes will be up for grabs.

Visitors can also meet Jodie, as well as gold-medal-winning guide runner Mikal Huggins and weight-lifter Jaswant Shergill.

Reception

A bus shelter serving the town is also set to be painted gold.

Jodie - who took the Glasgow 2014 games by storm by winning two gold medals, including in the very first competition of the championships - will attend a reception at Sandwell Council House along with fellow athletes during the day.

She is a former member of the Oldbury Swimming and Triathlon Club.

Leader of Sandwell Council, Councillor Darren Cooper, said he hoped

By Adam Grinsell

people would turn out and celebrate the sporting success of Jodie and her fellow athletes.

He said: "They are all wonderful role models and we hope they make youngsters in Sandwell realise that with hard work and dedication you can achieve whatever you want."

"We want people to turn out on September 13 and celebrate our athletes' success and have some fun with all the activities planned in the town square."

During the event, which is scheduled to run from 10am to 2pm, there will also be free face painting, fairground rides and a bouncy castle.

2.7m visit Brum's landmark library

AROUND 2.7million visitors have been welcomed through the doors of the £190 million Library of Birmingham since it opened a year ago.

Standing high over Centenary Square, the library, which is the biggest of its kind in Europe, has become a landmark in the city centre.

More than 800,000 members are signed up to the library, 21,000 sessions are booked on the public computers every month and nearly 5,000 people are logging onto the free WiFi. Members have borrowed over 316,000 books, music, films and other items from the Library of Birmingham in the past year.

The library, which is home to almost one million books, has won lots of awards and accolades.

The building has also been designed to break the traditional rules with visitors not expected to be shushed, as per the traditional notion that libraries are quiet places.

Brian Gambles, director, said the number of visitors to the library since it opened on September 3, 2013 was double the annual figure at the old Central Library.

He said: "It has been an amazing first year for the Library of Birmingham. The hugely positive public reaction to the building, its facilities, our services and our events and exhibition programme, demonstrates the important role the Library plays in the social, cultural and economic life of the city."

Staff are gearing up to mark the first anniversary of the library opening on September 30, with the event Word Up!

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Blind Dave joins Black Country Run



The Rotary Club's Alan Bowler from Halesowen and Blind Dave Heeley promote the Black Country Run

HE has run a marathon on every continent in seven successive days but this month 'Blind Dave' Heeley will be stepping down the mileages on his home turf in a Black Country charity race.

The 56-year-old from West Bromwich is planning to dress as cartoon character Shrek when he takes part in The Great Black Country Run, a 10km race taking place in Halesowen on Sunday, September 21.

He will be joined by friends Tony Ellis and Rosemary Rhodes, who plan

to join in the theme by dressing up as other characters from the film.

The race takes place a year before they join the Marathon de Sables, which will see them run the equivalent of five-and-a-half marathons in the Sahara Desert.

Mr Heeley said: "It is the third year of The Great Black Country Run, they have asked me to take part the last couple of years but it has always happened on the same day at the Great North Run. This year it didn't so I put my name down.

"To add some fun, me and some friends taking part have decided to dress up as characters from Shrek. We do a lot of the runs and we always see people dressed up but have never done it. We're on the look-out for costumes."

The Great Black Country Run is organised by The Rotary Club of Halesowen & Rowley Regis in aid of local charities. As well as the 10km race, there will also be a 5km fun run. Last year the race raised £20,000 for charity. See www.theblackcountryrun.com

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Rudy's boys rock Rep with laughter

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

Rudy's Rare Records,
Birmingham Rep

LENNY Henry may have given up stand-up comedy in favour of acting but there are still plenty of laughs in this warm-hearted story about three generations of the same family working in a struggling Handsworth record shop.

Dudley-born Henry and writer Danny Robins worked together on four series of Rudy's Rare Records on BBC Radio 4 and have finally, and triumphantly, turned the story into a joyous and exuberant play. It won a standing ovation at the Rep.

The clash between father and son has long been a rich source for drama and comedy, think Steptoe & Son. Despite the bickering, one feels the affection from Lenny Henry's divorcee son and failed actor Adam who has come home to look after his elderly dad Rudy and his chaotic vinyl emporium. However, their ongoing war of words allows the script to be peppered with dozens of choice one-liners. These

include Rudy's dismissal of golf as "cricket for people who can't run" and Adam telling his father: "I'm not taking parenting advice from a man who blu-tacked an ashtray onto my pram."

Lenny Henry is in full-on loveable mode as the sarcastic yet dutiful son, eyes rolling in exasperation as his father berates the developers who want to demolish his shop over their 'genital friction' (gentrification) of the area.

Larrington Walker is superb as Rudy, the hip-swiveling pensioner with a liking for tall tales, buxom



Lenny Henry and Natasha Godfrey in Rudy's Rare Records at Birmingham Rep

ladies, Guinness and some colourful Caribbean cussing. But he meets his match in old pal Clifton (Jeffery Kissoon, clearly relishing his role) and girlfriend laundrette boss Doreen (Lorna Gayle) who insists she is for more than "naughtiness and clean underpants." Young actors Jovian Wade, as Rudy's rapping grandson, and Natasha Godfrey, as Birmingham's only Jamaican goth, give solid support.

The poignant scene in which three generations join in singing A Change Is Gonna Come was pure magic —

the other lump in the throat moment being when Clifton tells Rudy when he says son Adam has never liked him: "He doesn't like you, he loves you."

The first act is a little long at 90 minutes and the second is mostly given over to musical performances during a 'Rudestock' reggae benefit concert for the shop. But if you have nostalgia for proper record shops and classic reggae tunes from the 1960s and 70s, Rudy's message is for you.

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'No other family should have to go through this'

A GRIEVING mother has called for more to be done to help addicts who are leaving prison to make sure they don't go back to drugs.

Beverley Bailey was speaking at Smethwick Council House after the inquest into the death of her son, Jason, the day after he was released from prison. The 34-year-old died at his mother's home in Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen, on June 4 after overdosing on heroin.

Mrs Bailey said her son was released from prison following a 10-week stint for shop theft as having no fixed abode, and with around £100 he had earned from working while in prison.

Concerns

She said: "If a known heroin addict is released onto the streets with nowhere to go and £100 in his pocket, it's not rocket science to work out what he's going to do with the money."

She said she wanted to make people aware of the lack of support given to drug addicts when they are released from prison, while Mr Robin Balmain, senior coroner for the Black Country, said he would write to the prison service to express his concerns.

Mrs Bailey - a former prison officer - has written to her MP, James Morris, about her son's case. She said: "If one good thing can come from this then it is that another family doesn't have to go through what we have had to."

She told the inquest that she had been to visit her son a week before his release to tell him he was not allowed back to his parents' house. However, when Mr Bailey was released on June 3 he arrived at her house later that day, but she told him to go away. He came back half an hour later and was sobbing so she let him in.

"I told him if he was going to live



Jason Bailey — his mother says more must be done to help addicts

here he was going to do as I say and he had to ask to do everything except flush the toilet," she said.

"We spent a wonderful afternoon in the garden. It was like we had our son back. He went to bed and I went upstairs around about midnight and his door was wide open and his television was on. He never used to leave his door open so I thought he was finally being open with us."

She found him lying on the floor and called the ambulance. She said ambulance staff found her son with a syringe still in his leg.

Mr Balmain said Mr Bailey had 579 microgrammes of morphine, derived from heroin and methadone, per litre of blood. He recorded the cause of death as heroin and morphine toxicity.

He added: "This is a tragedy that I am seeing all too often. I do take on board what this young man's mother has told me about the situation on release from prison, which seems to me to be a recipe for disaster. I have the authority to bring these matters to the attention of the relevant authorities and I propose to write to the prison service."

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Two locked up for roles in £1.7m tobacco racket

TWO members of a gang behind a £1.7million cigarette and tobacco smuggling racket have been jailed.

Alan Nesbeth, aged 53, was put behind bars for five years while 28-year-old Jian Ning Yang was locked up for two-and-a-half years.

Some of the contraband was sent into the country through the post in packages and parcels from China and Korea disguised as tea, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week. The rest was driven into the UK by the lorry load, explained Miss Heidi Kubik, prosecuting.

The racket was smashed by Revenue and Customs investigators who swooped to seize hundreds of thousands of illicit cigarettes and tons of rolling tobacco.

Storage

A huge haul, on which £1.6 million duty had been evaded, was recovered after the juggernaut, in which it had been concealed among a load of steel wool, arrived at the Alligator Self Storage unit in Portway Road, Wednesbury, in May 2013.

Fifteen months earlier another raid by officials on the Leavesley Containers in Wellington Road, Dudley, had unearthed tobacco and cigarettes on which £131,000 duty had been dodged. That had been smuggled into the country as either freight or in postal packages of 'tea'.

Yang played an important role in the latter, acting as a link between the UK and Chinese arms of the operation because he spoke good English. Investigators had watched him transferring heavy boxes from the container to his car. His green BMW was then tailed to a house in Greenhill Road, Handsworth, where more boxes and bin liners packed with tobacco were found.



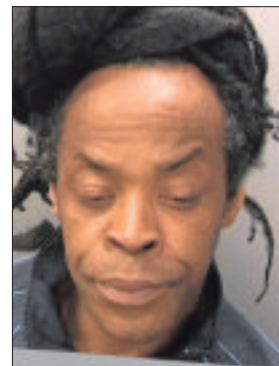
Jian Yang — cigarettes found in boot

Delivery companies were also seen dropping off packages at the address from which 8,000 illicit cigarettes and tobacco were recovered. A £38,175 cash stash was later discovered at his home in Linwood Road, Dudley.

Surveillance teams saw packages of 'tea' being collected from Bilston post office by 53-year-old Nesbeth and Renna Graham. The former was also spotted selling tobacco in the street outside the post office in the summer of 2012.

Around 10,800 cigarettes were found in the boot of Yang's car when it was stopped by investigators while both Nesbeth and 63-year-old Graham were travelling as passengers.

Nesbeth, of Glyn Avenue, Moxley, was seen at the Alligator Self Storage in May the following year where surveillance filmed boxes being unloaded from the lorry to a container that had been rented by him under the guise of storing electrical goods.



Alan Nesbeth — rented container

Yang had been an important player in the smuggling through Leavesley Containers while Nesbeth was a 'facilitator' in the operation both there and at the Alligator Self Storage yard, the court was told.

Graham, of Bradley Lane, Bilston had been paid £15-a-time to receive packages sent by the gang from China and Korea.

Conspiracy

She and Nesbeth were both convicted of conspiracy to evade excise duty through the fraudulent importation of cigarettes and tobacco between July 2011 and January 2013 while Yang admitted the offence.

Graham was given a 15 month prison sentence suspended under supervision for 18 months.

Judge Michael Dudley told them: "This was a highly sophisticated smuggling operation involving Chinese and Korean connections."

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College labs in a £1m revamp

MORE than £1 million has been spent re-vamping science labs at Stourbridge College. Work to upgrade the facilities took place during the summer break.

It comes as work continues on a £5 million scheme to create a new reception area and health and social care centre. It is expected to be completed by February.

Ben Grimley, assistant director for science, said: "We are all really excited by the prospect of moving the faculty into new purpose-built laboratories as part of the multi-million pound refurbishment of the Hagley Road site. This will now enable the college to deliver A-level physics alongside its other A-level sciences with A-level biology being one of the subjects achieving 100 per cent pass rates this summer."

"The new facilities will also enable more science courses to be offered to part-time students and adult learners as well as offering bright, engaging and innovative learning spaces for 16-19 year olds."

Cheeky teen achieves his naked ambition



Ben sheds his clothes to brave the cold on Mount Kilimanjaro

WHEN 18-year-old Ben Boleyn reached the top of Mount Kilimanjaro — raising £600 for Acorns Children's Hospice — he decided to mark the occasion in his own way.

After an eight-day trek to reach the peak, almost 6,000 metres above sea level, the cheeky teen stripped naked in temperatures of -12C.

Ben, from Kingswinford, said: "One volunteer said every time he goes to a national landmark he takes a naked picture of himself. It just snowballed after that. Everyone kept talking about it and one climber bet me 500 Tanzanian shillings, which is about 18p that I wouldn't do it. When we got to the top I just thought why not?"

Before the climb Ben, who wants to be a doctor, spent time volunteering at Mwananyamala hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Ben recently finished his A-Levels at King Edward



Ben raised £6,000 for a hospice

VI College in Stourbridge where he got an A in Chemistry, A in Human Biology and a B in Maths.

Ben said: "I do voluntary work every week at Acorns Children's Hospice in Worcester so have seen the amazing work they do caring for terminally ill children." Donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/Ben-Boleyn/

New grants available to boost business 'vitality'

PLANS to offer business owners the chance to bid for cash to brighten up empty shops have been approved. A £167,000 cash pot will be made available for projects in Dudley.

People will be able to apply for grants of up to £5,000. Money will be available for projects which can be used to improve the appearance of vacant units and 'grot spots' across the borough.

The cash is being offered by Dudley Council and has come from Government funding from the High Street Innovation Fund and Empty Shops Grant initiatives with former Area Committee Delegated Capital budgets £167,361.

Regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster has given the scheme the go-ahead. She said: "Applications are invited for a wide range of proposals, however, the main consideration for applications will be whether they will improve the appearance or economic vitality of an area."

Jail for builder who made 'hollow promise' over deal

A FRAUDSTER who promised to pay his victims after making a deal with Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan has been jailed for two years.

Builder Mark Ware continued to trade for four months after his business encountered financial trouble in January 2010, leaving homeowners in the Stourbridge area thousands of pounds out of pocket. Ware took deposits from customers for work that was never finished and failed to pay suppliers, carpenters and plumbers.

Ware, of Sutton Coldfield, pleaded guilty to three charges of VAT fraud and two of fraudulent trading earlier this year. He was due to be sentenced in June, and then in July, but the case was adjourned as the court heard that Ware was

involved in a multi-million pound deal with the Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan.

It was said the deal would have earned Ware £2 million in bonuses which he could have used to pay off the debt. He was sent to prison after Birmingham Crown Court heard last week that the deal had not been completed.

Judge Mary Stacey said the builder had been 'utterly reckless'. She told him: "You have swung us along for many months with the hope and expectation of being put into funds so that people could be paid back. It turned out to be a hollow promise."

Prosecutor Nicholas Cole told the court Ware launched four firms and took on building contracts in 2006. He could no longer pay his debts by January 2010 but continued trading for four

months. Householders lost a total of £157,995.

Martin Butterworth, defending, said Ware accepted liabilities of up to £100,000. He added: "This whole venture was misconceived, that is, moving into an industry of which he had no experience."

One of the victims, David Jerrom, of Oldswinford, said a number of Ware's victims had come together to bring him to court with the help of Stourbridge MP Margot James, Bromsgrove MP Sajid Javid and a group called Scam Busters.

Another victim, Peter Mitchelson, from Hagley, said: "This shouldn't have taken four years to crawl through the justice system. If someone had walked into Oldswinford Post Office and stolen £160,000 they would get five years in prison, and that's what Ware should have got."



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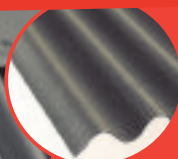


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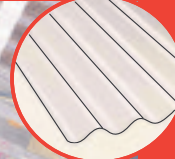


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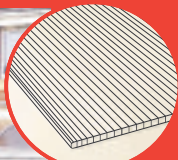


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Fixer sent to prison after renting Black Country houses for drug gang

A MAN who rented houses so a drug gang could turn them into cannabis factories, has been jailed.

Mazhar Pathan used a false name, forged documents and cash provided by the gang when dealing with landlords, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Houses involved in the racket included properties at Church Street, Halesowen and Dudley Road, Warley, as well as premises in Wolverhampton and Derby.

Pathan, of Bescot Road, Walsall, who had no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to being concerned in the production of cannabis and money laundering. He was jailed for two years and eight months.

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, revealed: "The production at

the four properties involved the growing of up to 800 plants with a potential crop of 44 kilograms of skunk cannabis."

The 28-year-old 'fixer,' using the name Mohammed Ali, paid five months of the £500-a-month rent in advance on the Heath Town address in August 2012. Police found it had been converted into a drug factory with 21 heat lamps and 70 plants when it was raided.

The defendant forked out £1,100 cash in May 2013 to rent the property in Halesowen which had 152 plants under cultivation in three rooms when officers swooped three months later. A Vietnamese 'gardener' tending the crop was jailed for 18 months.

The slip that cost Pathan his liberty involved the premises in Warley which had been transformed into a 312-plant cannabis

factory. When an attempt was made to break into the property – possibly made by a rival gang – he reported the suspected burglary to police using his own mobile phone.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said Pathan had been in need of cash having taken out a loan to build an extension at his home but then was made redundant. Mr Mann, added: "He found himself in a fix and acted wholly out of character. The offence was financially driven. He was being paid up to £3,000 to rent the property but had nothing to do with the growing of the cannabis."

Recorder Geoffrey Kelly told him: "You had a crucial role. The criminal enterprise could not have operated without the properties provided by you."

Picnic marks year of scheme

FAMILIES of children with disabilities from across the West Midlands gathered to mark a first anniversary of a project helping to provide respite.

Barnardo's Midlands Overnight Short Breaks service provides children with disabilities and their families regular, planned overnight short breaks. Bosses say it gives youngsters the chance to enjoy time away from home, try new activities and make new friends.

A picnic to celebrate the service's first year anniversary was held at Haden Hill Park. Spokeswoman Stephanie Cummins said: "Our first year has been a great success and we have work with around 90 children and their families." To find out more about the service call 0121 550 1222.

A-maize-ing poppy tribute



A stunning aerial shot of Sandwell Valley's maize maze

IT is a spectacular tribute to those who died in the First World War.

Nine acres of winding hedged passageways shaped into a poppy, as seen from the air in this stunning picture.

The bird's eye view of the attraction was revealed by Sandwell Council which is urging more families to visit the new maize maze.

Situated at Forge Mill Farm, the maze opened last month and is the first of its kind in Sandwell.

Mayor

It was shaped as a poppy to commemorate the start of the Great War's hundredth anniversary this year.

The attraction was opened by Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Derek Rowley.

He said: "It is a fantastic win-win idea.

"The kids can enjoy it over the summer and then the animals at the farm will be fed from it later in the year."

Visitors are advised to allow an hour and a half to complete the maze. It is open daily from 10am to 4.30pm, with last admission at 3.30pm.

Entry to Forge Mill Farm is free. Admission to the maze is £3 for adults and £1.50 for children and over 60s. Family tickets are also available.



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'Students throughout the school enjoy their lessons and show positive attitudes to their learning. Relationships between staff and students are strong.'

Ofsted 2014

OPEN EVENING: Tuesday 23 September 2014
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OPEN DAY: Wednesday 24 September 2014
9.30am - 2.30pm

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www.st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk



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Classic cars draw record crowd to park



Les Deykin from Bourneville gets his MG TF 1500 polished for the hugely popular car show at Himley Hall

MORE than 3,500 people, a record crowd, turned up at the Dudley Classic Car and Transport Show on the grounds of Himley Hall on Sunday. In its 15th year, the show featured a collection of more than 800 vintage and classic cars.

Among the main attractions was a Ghostbusters car accompanied with a huge inflatable Stay Puft Man, a monster

in the 1980s film. The Ghostbusters car was taken to the show by co-owner Tim Jordan. He created the film themed car from a rusty Cadillac ambulance.

He also brought his son, seven-month-old Harrison, who was guest of honour at the show. Harrison was born 11 weeks early on February 3.

High school open days

A HIGH performing Sandwell secondary school is holding its annual open evening for prospective pupils and their parents next Thursday, September 18.

Perryfields High School and Sixth Form has had another successful year. The Oldbury school is again oversubscribed in all year groups and its rapidly developing sixth form.

The specialist maths and computing college is also holding open days on September 16, 24 and October 2, each from 8.45am to 11.15am.

Tour

This will include a chance to meet the head and go on a guided tour at 9am prompt.

A school spokesperson said: "The school is well led by an experienced and established senior management

team who have worked tirelessly over a number of years to create an outstanding learning experience in a caring environment.

"Success is built on a foundation which includes good quality teaching, high standards of behaviour and excellent relationships between staff, pupils and parents."

To find out more about the school in Oldacre Road, see the www.perryfieldshigh.sandwell.sch.uk website.

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Going to school in Sandwell in September 2015

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Do you have a child born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011 and due to start reception class OR a child due to transfer to junior school in September 2015?

The admissions booklet and application form for reception classes will be available online from 15 September 2014. If your child is in Year 2 in a Sandwell infant school this September, you will receive a letter explaining how to apply direct from the school.

The closing date for reception and junior applications is 15 January 2015.

Do you live in Sandwell and have a child who is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2015?

If your child is already in a Sandwell school and you live in Sandwell, you will receive a letter explaining how to apply from your child's current primary school. If you do not live in Sandwell and you have not already received an information booklet, you should contact the Council to which you pay your council tax.

The closing date for secondary applications is 31 October 2014.

Apply online at:

www.sandwell.gov.uk/schooladmissions
from 15 September 2014.

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Learning Services
School Admissions Service
PO Box 10338
Sandwell Council House
Fleeth Street, Oldbury B68 8GX
enquiries@admissions@sandwell.gov.uk



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2nd October 2014

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OPEN EVENING:

18th September 2014

7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

(all welcome, no appointments required)

Presentation by the Headteacher at 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm in the School Hall

Parents are invited to visit our school and receive further information regarding admissions for September 2015

Further details and prospectus available from the Headteacher

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every day to countries around the world, the company began in the Rubery home of Managing Director Mark Johansen-Berg, before quickly expanding to its Halesowen Headquarters on the Shenstone Trading Estate.

It's not just skateboards and scooters though, and it's not just for the internet shopper. Skate Hut is also a great place to find the latest in streetwear fashion items; choose from over 700 styles of branded

footwear, 200 styles of hoodie and 500 different rucksacks, plus unusual gifts, accessories and more. As well operating a busy warehouse to ship this ever-growing range of items to national and international customers, Skate Hut HQ also incorporates a store-front, opening its shop doors to a more local customer base 7 days a week.



What all this means for Halesowen shoppers is that they can get big brand T-shirts, hoodies, caps and beanies, plus footwear names such as Vans, Nike, Converse and Puma, right on their doorstep. Every item on the website can be checked out or tried on in the shop, with the help of Skate Hut's friendly and knowledgeable staff. Need help selecting a new pair of skates, or finding the right replacement part for your scooter? Or perhaps you want the latest pair of Heelys or some Hunter wellies for the winter but are not sure of your size? Just pop in! What's more, visitors to the shop will be able to take advantage of special offers, exclusive discounts and B-Stock sales not always available online. So, what are you waiting for? Get down there and have a look around!

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£26m NIA revamp nearly complete



Birmingham's NIA has been undergoing a major revamp and is due for its grand reopening in December

THESE pictures show the shimmering glass facade taking shape as the £26 million redevelopment of the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham draws to a close.

Work is progressing ahead of schedule in preparation for the grand opening of the new centre in December.

The NIA has hosted some of the world's biggest names but is currently closed as the revamp nears completion.

The stylish double glazed frontage,

which is set to become an iconic image in Birmingham, is now almost complete while the three sky needles are yet to be fitted to the top of the arena. Once complete, the needles will be visible from across the city.

The glass frontage encompasses three mezzanine levels, divided by huge copper-plated 'fins'.

Becky Humphries, spokeswoman for NIA, said: "The NIA redevelopment is making great progress. The £26m

redevelopment is transforming the arena so we can continue to attract national and international events to Birmingham, and give the one million plus visitors we draw each year the best possible customer experience."

As part of the revamp it will no longer be called the NIA, with naming rights sold to Barclaycard to help to fund the project. An official name is yet to be decided. The capacity will be increased from 14,150 to 15,992.

Police are hunting man over link to robberies

POLICE are hunting a man wanted in connection with 12 armed robberies across the Black Country.

Marcus Marcel Shaquel Morgan is suspected of taking part in raids on supermarkets and shops in in the Sandwell and Dudley boroughs in April and May.

In one robbery, at Staples, in Tildasley Street, West Bromwich, on April 11, police believe he stormed the store with three other men armed with weapons and threatened staff for cash.

Subway

Officers also want to question him over two robberies at Farm Foods store in Cape Hill Retail Centre on May 8 and 22. He is suspected of taking part in robberies at a Farm Foods store in Tipton on April 27, and at Towsure Products Ltd in Long Lane, Halesowen and Subway, in Parsonage Street in West Bromwich, both on May 2.

He also faces questions over a raid on a Post Office in Londonderry Road, Oldbury on May 7, at Homezone, in Anderson Road, Bearwood on May 8 and at PC World, in Axletree Way, Wednesbury on May 28.

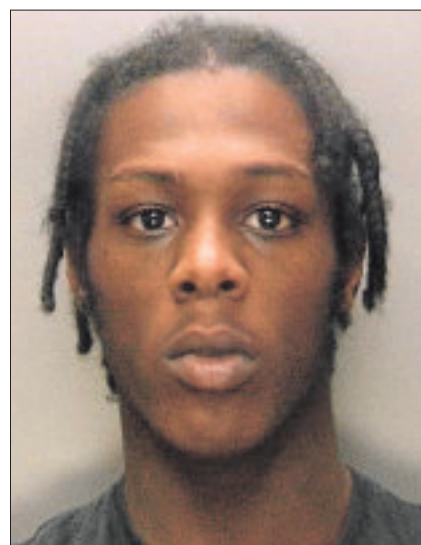
Police believe he may also have taken part in raids on ASDA stores in Daisy Street in Coseley, Saltwells Road in Netherton and in High Street in Dudley over a two-week period in May.

Morgan is described as black with short dreadlocks and is around 5ft 7 inches tall.

Detective Constable Derek Cole said: "As part of our investigations three men have been arrested in connection with the robberies and remain on remand."

"We now need to trace Morgan, who we believe could still be in the Black Country, and we are urging people to call us with information of his whereabouts."

Anyone with information is urged to contact the police by calling 101.



Police are seeking Marcus Morgan in connection with a series of armed robberies across the Black Country



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Singing Lenny is boosting his Rep

DUDLEY comedian turned actor Lenny Henry, currently starring in Rudy's Rare Records at Birmingham Rep, will be talking about his career in a special event at the Centenary Square theatre on Saturday at 5pm, being recorded by BBC Radio 3. Later that day, at 10pm, Lenny turns soul man with Poor White Trash and The Little Big Horns at the Rep Studio.

The Faulty Towers Dining Experience (don't ask for the Waldorf Salad) is being held at the Rep Banqueting Suites until Sunday, which is also the annual Open Day at the city playhouse. The Russian Doctor, based on a remarkable episode from the life of Anton Chekhov, is at the Rep Door tonight, tomorrow and Saturday.

Stand Up & Rock with Jasper and co

COMEDIAN Jasper Carrott is teaming up with some of his Brummie musician mates for the Stand Up & Rock tour, that is coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Tuesday.

The evening will include stand-up comedy from Jasper plus music from Bev Bevan and Trevor Burton, formerly of 1960s hitmakers The Move, the Rockin' Berries' Geoff Turton and Joy Strachan-Brain from Celtic rockers Quill.

The tour also goes to Dudley Town Hall on October 16, Birmingham Town Hall on October 21, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall on October 30 and 31.

Rising star is on brink of the big time thanks to Saturdays

Faggots, Fizzogs and fun

THE Black Country Living Museum in Dudley has put together its own version of tapas dishes—delicacies such as grorty dick, faggots, gray peas and bacon—to celebrate its Black Country Night at the Tipton Road museum on Saturday from 6.30 to 10pm.

The evening of food and fun will feature several acts including The Empty Can, who were behind the Black Country anthem I Vow to Thee My Black Country, and internet sensations The Fizzogs, known for their Dancing Grannies comedy routine which went viral. Plus choir Got2Sing.

Musicians such as Brett Huckfield and Linda Simpson will appear alongside a tribute to local legend Dolly Allen, marking 70 years since her first stand-up routine in 1944. James Stevens, from The Empty Can, said: "There will be an outdoor stage so there will be a real festival atmosphere."

Call 0121 520 8054.



James Stevens from The Empty Can and Craig Lewis who is head chef at the museum

FOR Beth Sherburn it took one moment in the spotlight as a child to give birth to a dream.

The nerves subsided as she took to the stage at The Straits Primary School to give her first solo performance. Afterwards, as the audience cheered, she decided to follow her dream of becoming a singer.

Fast forward to today and Beth, from Gornal, is ready to take her big step to stardom. The 23-year-old is celebrating being picked to support girl group The Saturdays on their Greatest Hits tour, arriving at Birmingham's NIA on Monday.

It caps a meteoric rise for Beth over the past two years since being discovered singing while she worked behind the perfume counter at Debenhams at the Merry Hill shopping centre. She caught the attention of John McLaughlin—the man behind Take That, Girls Aloud and Busted—while singing the Michael Bubl  hit Christmas to herself in November 2012.

It was a fairytale story for Beth who quit her job to sign a record deal and within weeks was achieving chart success with her debut single, a cover of Duran Duran's Ordinary World which entered the UK Club charts.

"It has been an amazing few months," she said. "When I heard that I was going to be supporting The Saturdays I was so happy."

She can still remember the encouraging words of primary school headteacher Adrian Slack who gave her



Dudley singer Beth Sherburn

the confidence to take on her first solo, a version of Celine Dion's Falling into You.

"He was amazing and really helped me," she said. "When I performed that first time it brought me out of my shell and I immediately knew what I wanted to do and that's be a singer."

Her mother Sarah is a registrar in Dudley and father Graeme works for Dudley Council. Beth, who also attended Ellowes Hall Sports College, said they have always supported her and her sisters Leah and Ellie.

Cats on the prowl again after revamp

HIT musical Cats is in Birmingham before returning to the West End.

The latest revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's show—now featuring a rapping cat—opened at Birmingham's Hippodrome Theatre this week and runs until September 27 on its last stop before heading to the London Palladium.

Cats first opened in the West End in 1981 and ran for a record-breaking 21 years, playing almost 9,000 performances. On Broadway it ran for 18 years and has been performed in 26 countries.

Zizi Strallen plays Demeter in the current cast, following in the footsteps of her West End star sister Summer Strallen and her aunt Bonnie Langford, also former Cats performers.

Jane is preparing for her Grand gig

SINGER and TV star Jane McDonald bring her latest tour to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Wednesday, September 17.

The former cruise ship entertainer who became one of TV's Loose Women will perform a selection of songs from her latest album The Singer of Your Song. She will also sing some of her best-loved tunes from throughout her career, including some of her own compositions.

The show will start at 7.30pm with tickets priced between £19.50 and £34.50. Club singer Jane shot to fame after being featured on docusoap The Cruise. To book tickets call 01902 429212.

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CHOICE



Stephen Mulhern

Sunday Night at the Palladium (ITV, 7pm)

New series. After its initial run all those years ago between 1955 and 1967, followed by a brief revival during 1973 and 1974, the variety show makes its much-anticipated return with some of the UK's best-loved comedians and entertainers performing inside the West End theatre, including Rob Brydon, Jimmy Carr and Bradley Walsh. First up, though, presenting duties are handed over to entertainer Stephen Mulhern, who will be compering the show in front of the 2,200-strong audience. Guests include singing superstar Bryan Adams, girl band Little Mix, comic Alan Davies, speciality act Les Beaux Freres and quick-change duo David & Dania. Plus, tenor Alfie Boe, who will be performing Bring Him Home from Les Misérables.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Live Inictus Games. The fourth and final day of the event. 4.15 Points of View. 4.30 The Great British Bake Off. (R) 5.30 Songs of Praise.

6.05 Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. Steve Backshall and the crew reach the remote island of South Georgia, before travelling to Antarctica, their final destination, where the naturalist dives with a leopard seal.

6.35 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Jules Hudson is in Norfolk, where he gets privileged access to the Ministry of Defence training grounds – including a purpose-built Afghan village in the heart of the British countryside. Anita Rani explores the history of the humble shepherd's hut, and Charlotte Smith investigates how there are still large parts of rural Britain with little or no mobile phone coverage – and what is being done to remedy the situation. Shauna Lowry and Helen Skelton meet the teams representing Scotland and Wales in this year's One Man and His Dog competition. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. New series. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland, where the experts advise the Queen about a curious collection of items in the royal residence.

9.00 The Village. Bill Gibby returns to the village as the new councillor for Sheffield and reveals his plans for a reservoir, while Martha and Eyre make plans for the future. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of Manchester United v Queens Park Rangers at Old Trafford in the Premier League.

11.20 Film: She's Out of My League. (2010) Romantic comedy. With Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve and Lindsay Sloane.

1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.05 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Countryfile. (R) 7.00 Monty Don's Italian Garden. (R) 8.00 Gardens' World. (R) 8.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 9.00 The Football League Show. (R) 10.20 Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. 11.50 Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) 12.20 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) 12.50 Film: Tycoon. (1947) Romantic drama, starring John Wayne and Laraine Day. 2.55 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.40 Flog It! 4.40 Equator. (R) 5.40 Penguins on a Plane: Great Animal Moves. (R)

6.40 Film: StreetDance 2. (2012) Premiere. A dancer tries to put a humiliating defeat in a contest behind him by assembling an international dance crew to compete in a high-profile European event. Drama, starring Falk Hentschel, Tom Conti and Sofia Boutella.

8.00 The Invictus Games – Closing Concert. For the past four days, wounded, sick and injured servicemen and women from across the world have been competing in a series of sporting events. But now the last medal has been won, it's time for them to unwind – and there's a host of stars lining up to help them celebrate their remarkable achievements at the Invictus Games Closing Concert. Clare Balding and Greg James present performances from Foo Fighters, Kaiser Chiefs, Ellie Goulding, Rizzle Kicks, Ryan Adams, the Vamps and Diversity, as well as a couple of acts for whom the Games may have an extra special meaning – former soldier James Blunt and the Military Wives Choirs. Plus, the athletes will also be given their moment in the spotlight during a medalion ceremony paying tribute to all the inspirational participants.

10.15 Mock the Week. Host Dara O Briain and regulars Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons are joined by Ed Byrne, Gary Delaney, Katherine Ryan and Josh Widdicombe for the topical comedy quiz. (R)

10.45 Film: Blade Runner: The Final Cut. (1982) A detective is sent to kill four renegade androids searching for their creator in a bleak future Los Angeles. Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller, with Harrison Ford and Rutger Hauer.

12.40 Dangerous Days: Making Blade Runner. 2.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 3.10 Holly City. (R) 4.10 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Animals. (R) 7.10 Animals. (R) 7.20 Nom Nom Stories. (R) 7.25 Sooty. (R) 7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.55 Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.20 Nerds & Monsters. (R) 8.30 Big Time Rush. 9.00 The Aquabats Super Show. 9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.25 ITV News: Weather. 11.30 Film: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head. (1966) 1.15 The X Factor. (R) 2.30 Film: Always. (1989) Romantic fantasy, with Richard Dreyfuss and Holly Hunter. 4.45 Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. New series. Variety show from the West End theatre, featuring a different host each week. Stephen Mulhern welcomes Alfie Boe, Little Mix, Alan Davies and Bryan Adams to the stage.

8.00 The X Factor. Having proved themselves in front of the panel, the hopefuls now perform in front of an audience of almost 5,000 as the Wembley Arena auditions continue. Dermot O'Leary presents.

9.00 The Suspicions of Mr Whicher: The Ties That Bind. Hired by West Country landowner Sir Henry Coverley, Whicher takes on a seemingly straightforward case of infidelity, following his client's young wife as she meets her lover in London. However, when a key witness mysteriously fails to attend the divorce hearing, the investigation takes a dark twist, leading the private inquiry agent into the heart of the English countryside and to the most disturbing and destructive of secrets. Feature-length Victorian crime drama, starring Paddy Considine, with Helen Bradbury, Risteard Cooper and Alex Robertson.

11.00 ITV News: Weather.

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights from the second weekend of the season, with matches including Harlequins v Saracens, Exeter Chiefs v Leicester Tigers and Wasps v Northampton Saints.

12.20 The Store. 2.55 Motorsport UK. 3.40 British Superbike Championship Highlights. 4.35 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) 7.30 British F3. 8.00 World Superbikes. 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.55 The Simpsons. (R) 3.30 Film: Star Trek: Generations. (1994) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Patrick Stewart and William Shatner. 5.45 Deal or No Deal.

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Richard Attenborough: A Life. A tribute to the late actor, director and social activist who died last month at the age of 90. Attenborough made his name with stand-out performances on the silver screen, including his chilling portrayal of hitman Pinkie Brown in Brighton Rock in 1947, before appearing as part of the all-star ensemble cast of The Great Escape in 1963. He later turned his attention to roles behind the camera with his Oscar-winning 1982 biopic Gandhi, before winning over a new generation of fans in the 1990s with memorable on-screen turns as eccentric theme park developer John Hammond in Jurassic Park and Kris 'Santa Klaus' Kringle in the Miracle on 34th Street remake.

8.00 The Real Noah's Ark: Secret History. Inspired by his discovery of an ancient tablet shedding light on the biblical tale, Irving Finkel and a team of boatbuilders set out to construct a real Noah's ark.

9.00 Houdini. The legendary illusionist and escape artist conducted an epic battle against the spiritualists whose practices he believes to be fraudulent. As the 20th century progresses and a more modern era overtakes the industrial age, he finds himself forced to come to terms with his new place in a fast-changing world. Conclusion of the two-part drama, starring Adrian Brody in the title role.

10.50 Film: Jennifer's Body. (2009) A cheerleader is possessed by a flesh-eating demon and systematically seduces and devours the male population of her high school. Comedy horror, with Megan Fox and Amanda Seyfried.

12.45 American Football Live. 5.00 British F3. (R) 5.30 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) 5.35 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. 5.45 Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. 7.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bubble Guppies. (R) 6.45 The Mr Men Show. (R) 7.00 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.15 Olly the Little White Van. (R) 7.20 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.35 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.25 Wanda and the Alien. 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Jelly Jam. (R) 9.30 LazyTown. (R) 10.00 Access. (R) 10.05 Police Interceptors. (R) 11.05 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.05 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.05 Film: The Journey of Natty Gann. (1985) Disney adventure, starring Meredith Salenger. 3.00 Film: What a Girl Wants. (2003) Comedy, starring Amanda Bynes. 5.00 Film: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory. (1971) Musical fantasy, with Gene Wilder.

7.05 5 News Weekend.

7.10 Film: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen. (2003) Fearless hunter Allan Quatermain teams up with a host of other characters from Victorian literature – including Captain Nemo, the Invisible Man, Tom Sawyer and Dr Jekyll – to put a stop to the nefarious Fantom's evil plot to bring about a world war. Fantasy adventure, based on Alan Moore's comic-book series, starring Sean Connery, Shane West, Stuart Townsend and Tony Curran. Edited for daytime broadcast. Part of Movie Icons Day.

9.00 Film: The Rock. (1996) A renegade general and his crack team of mercenaries take over the abandoned fortress prison of Alcatraz and threaten San Francisco with toxic nerve-gas rockets to extort a massive ransom. To break their stranglehold on the city, the FBI sends in a chemical weapons expert and a jailed SAS veteran. Action thriller, with Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage and Ed Harris. Edited for language. Part of Movie Icons Day.

11.45 Film: Lord of War. (2005) A New York criminal gains access to a vast supply of Soviet weaponry and becomes one of the world's most notorious arms dealers. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Ethan Hawke. Edited for language.

1.50 SuperCasino. 3.10 Once Upon a Time. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear 8.00 Doctor Who 8.50 Great Movie Mistakes 2. The Squid 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 Cuckoo 11.15 Siblings 11.45 American Dad! 12.30 Sexy Beasts 1.00 Seann Walsh's Late Night Comedy Spectacular 2014 2.00 Cuckoo 2.30 Siblings 3.00 The Human Tissue Squad 4.00 Close

BBC Four
7.00 Vatican – The Hidden World 8.00 Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities 9.00 British Art at War: Bomber, Sicker and Nash 10.00 The Sky at Night 10.30 The Comet's Tale 11.30 Heavy Metal Britannia 1.00 Deep Purple – Made in Japan 2.00 Heavy Metal Britannia at the BBC 2.30 British Art at War: Bomber, Sicker and Nash 3.30 Close

ITV2
12.00 America's Got Talent 1.45 Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! 2.45 Film: Cats & Dogs (2001) 4.30 The X Factor 5.45 The Xtra Factor 6.45 Film: Twister (1996) 9.00 The Xtra Factor 10.00 Bad Bridesmaid 11.00 The X Factor 12.00 The X Factor 1.05 Fake Reaction 1.40 Conor Maynard: The Hot Desk 1.50 The Big Reunion 2014 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.15 Inspector Morse 2.20 Film: Columbus: Fade in to Murder (1978) 3.55 Film: Carry On Loving (1970) 5.45 Wycliffe 6.55 Lewis 9.00 The Best of the Royal Variety 10.05 Film: Dial M for Murder (1954) 12.15 William and Mary 2.05 Judge Judy 2.45 World Kitchen 3.10 ITV3 Nightscreen 3.40 Emmerdale

ITV4
11.50 The Motorbike Show 12.55 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana 1.55 Cycling: Tour of Britain 3.00 Cycling: Tour of Britain Live. Coverage of the second part of the eighth stage of the race. 5.55 Police, Camera, Action! 7.00 River Monsters 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Cycling: Tour of Britain 10.00 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana 11.00 Film: Shootout (1971) 1.00 Hell on Wheels 1.55 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 4.30 Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Made in Chelsea NYC 1.30 How I Met Your Mother 2.30 Suburbitary 3.00 The Mindy Project 3.30 New Girl 3.55 The Big Bang Theory 4.55 The 100 5.55 RuDe (ish) Tube 6.50 Film: Imagine That (2009) 9.00 Made in Chelsea NYC 10.00 Almost Royal 10.35 The Big Bang Theory 11.35 Virtually Famous 12.20 Rude Tube 1.25 Rules of Engagement 2.20 The Ricky Gervais Show 2.50 The Cleveland Show 3.10 Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Yellow Sky (1948) 1.00 Ladyhawke (1985) 3.20 Taxi (2004) 5.10 Five Children and It (2004) 6.55 Big Miracle (2012) 9.00 The Guard (2011) 11.00 Source Code (2011) 12.35 Rust and Bone (2012) 3.05 Close

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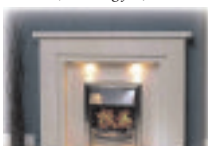
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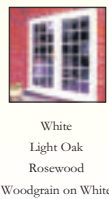
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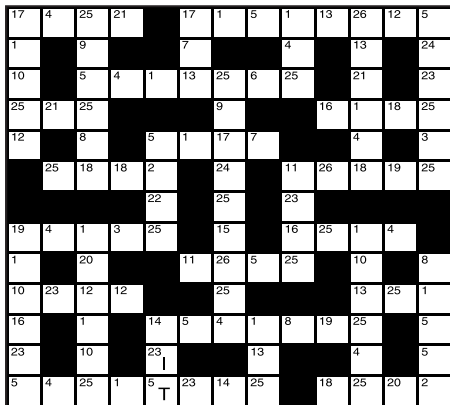


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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

W	Y	R	U	I	C	O	T	X	G	A	P	F
N	M	V	K	S	J	Z	L	Q	D	H	E	B

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

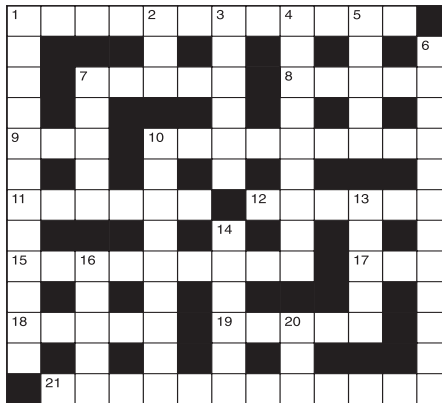
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Reserve for assignment to a particular team? (3,2,3,4)
- Such spirits help us to see better (5)
- Hide the hundred left (5)
- Tune keeping the lungs working? (3)
- Grows when folded (9)
- Occurrences that provide openings out East (6)
- Conclude it could be somewhat delicate (6)
- Realise it could be a Hebrew (9)
- They are relatively close (3)
- From which she'll engage a girl (5)
- Made an attempt at courting? (5)
- Indicate attention to exhibition dividend? (4,8)

Down

- Ordinary soldier is alive to off-duty goings-on (7,5)
- Why the stallion was hen-pecked? (3)
- It's nice to observe (6)
- Cite verse about not divulging (9)
- The rich man goes under (5)
- Urge worker on strike to give statement, for papers (5,7)
- Regal effort makes a big difference? (5)
- Having information about content of letter at present? (2,3,4)
- Given a coat by the printer (5)
- Pay attention: 50 = 10! (6)
- He is in general pharmacy (5)
- What 3 isn't (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Laudable (12)
- Schedule (5)
- Criminal (5)
- Vase (3)
- Profanation (9)
- Force (6)
- Inequitable (6)
- Indecency (9)
- Sack (3)
- Steam-bath (5)
- Power (5)
- Detective (12)

Down

- Cinema (7-5)
- Cry (3)
- Sprain (6)
- Villainous (9)
- Bisect (5)
- Questioner (12)
- Taut (5)
- Set apart (9)
- Precincts (5)
- Fate (6)
- Show contempt for (5)
- Joke (3)

Sudoku

4	3	8	2		
	6		2		7
		6	4		3
	9	7	1	3	
3	4				1
	7	4	2	6	9
		5	3		
2	6	1	4		8
	4	7	9		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	1	4	6	7	2	9	3
7	2	9	3	4	5	6	1
3	6	8	2	9	1	5	4
1	7	2	6	5	8	4	3
8	3	5	4	2	9	1	7
9	4	6	1	7	3	8	2
6	5	1	7	3	4	9	2
4	9	3	6	8	2	7	6
2	8	7	9	1	6	3	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Advance; 8 Reeled; 9 Install; 10 Greedy; 11 Income; 12 Dividers; 18 East wind; 20 Quorum; 21 Onager; 22 Ripping; 23 Severs; 24 Redress. Down: 1 Tragedy; 2 Reserve; 3 Tended; 5 Dentists; 6 Antics; 7 Column; 13 Elements; 14 Singlet; 15 Address; 16 Furnice; 17 Proper; 19 Tender. QUICK - Across: 4 Achieve; 8 Flashy; 9 Despire; 10 Extent; 11 Nation; 12 Cerberus; 18 Dissuade; 20 Forego; 21 Divine; 22 Partner; 23 Street; 24 Memento. Down: 1 Offence; 2 Factory; 3 Chance; 5 Cleanses; 6 Impute; 7 Vision; 13 Redolent; 14 Mariner; 15 Reverts; 16 Donate; 17 Gentle; 19 Shifty.

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Prime corner location for traditional family house



THIS three-bedroomed traditional detached house in Royal Oak Road, Halesowen, is on a corner plot

It is for sale through Dixons at £360,000. It has an entrance hall with wooden flooring, cloaks cupboard and stairs off, a lounge with French doors to the rear garden and a dining room with wooden flooring. The kitchen/breakfast room has cream unit, a sitting room has two sky lights, fitted storage furniture, a utility, WC, a master bedroom with wardrobes, two further bedrooms and a bathroom, separate WC, garage and gardens.

Call 0121 6290828 or visit www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk



Home with two lounges and a conservatory too



A MODERN and well-designed four-bedroomed detached family home in Great Meadow, Tipton, comes with two lounges and a spacious conservatory at the rear.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £259,950.

Decorated throughout it has a front facing lounge with modern feature fireplace, a dining room a set of French doors, a second lounge with French doors, a kitchen with units and under stairs storage, conservatory, downstairs WC, four good sized bedrooms, en suite to master, bathroom, mainly lawned gardens, a garage and off road parking via a double width front driveway adjoining the front lawn.

For more information contact Skitts on 0121 5202255 www.skitts.net



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0121 585 6667

Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



NEW
HALESOWEN, Hagley Road £825 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished detached house within close proximity of Halesowen. Briefly comprising Of: 3 Bedrooms, large lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with separate w.c, driveway parking & garage, double glazing, gas central heating (new boiler) EPC: D



NEW
OLDBURY, Broadway £725 pcm - Fees
A large extended traditional link- detached house in a quiet cul-de-sac. Entrance porch leading to entrance hall, large through lounge/dining area, study/playroom, superb bathroom with 'P' shaped bath & shower over, 3 double bedrooms, large rear garden, driveway to front for 2 cars. Additional fees apply. EPC: E



ROWLEY REGIS, Spring Vale Road £695 pcm - Fees
An opportunity to acquire a well maintained traditional three bedroom detached property situated in a popular residential location in a quiet cul-de-sac close to local schools, amenities and road links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen with a double range cooker, downstairs w.c, 2 double & 1 single bedroom/study. Bathroom with shower, driveway/garage. A lovely property not to be missed. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Queens Drive £660 pcm - Fees
A fully refurbished 3 bedroom semi detached house in a popular location. This house features a welcoming entrance hall, front lounge with a bay window, brand new fitted kitchen/diner, brand new bathroom with shower, off road parking for 2 vehicles, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Bryan Budd Close £650 pcm - Fees
Fully redecorated on a quiet modern estate, ideally situated for M5 and Blackheath town centre. This lovely semi-detached house features a light airy lounge, kitchen/dining area with patio doors to rear garden, 2 double & 1 single bedroom, family bathroom, driveway parking. Viewing essential. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent £625 pcm - Fees
Recently redecorated and carpeted. This huge 3 bedroom town house has had a full redecoration, carpets and boiler. This house will not stay around for long as its so close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge with stunning views, bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking, downstairs wc, small low maintenance rear garden. EPC: TBC



NEW
HAGLEY, Newlands Close £575 pcm - Fees
A superb modern ground floor apartment located near to Hagley Village & situated close to motorway links, open plan lounge/ kitchen with appliances, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and en-suite shower room & 1 large single bedroom, white bathroom suite, allocated parking, secure entry system. Not to be missed!! EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Wassell Road £575 pcm - Fees
Situated in the sought-after area of Halesowen is this beautiful semi detached property, perfect for a family seeking a warm, welcoming home. Fitted kitchen with open plan dining, attractive cosy lounge with double doors to the well kept rear garden with patio area, 2 generous double bedrooms and 1 spacious single bedroom, newly fitted shower room, paved driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Haden Arch Court £575 pcm - Fees
Contemporary living in Halesowen. This 1st floor spacious apartment above the archway, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre and buses, the apartment features gas central heating, double glazing, open plan living room/ fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, allocated parking. EPC: B



NEW
OLDBURY, St James Road £550 pcm - Fees
A modern 2 bed semi detached property with off road parking, comprising hallway, kitchen, Large lounge, family bathroom with shower, private rear garden, driveway. Conveniently located for the nearby M5 J2 for commuters. Additional fees apply. EPC: D



NEW
HALESOWEN, Stour Court £550 pcm - Fees
A great opportunity to rent this spacious and well proportioned ground floor apartment in a popular location. Large & airy living room, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, white bathroom suite with shower. Outside there is allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC: C.



QUINTON, Castner House £550 pcm - Fees
New build apartment close to local shops and bus links. This immaculate 2nd floor apartment is not to be missed. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, allocated parking. Ideal for transport links for Birmingham, Halesowen and Stourbridge. EPC: TBC



TIPTON, Carnegie Road £550 pcm - Fees
Modern 2 bed semi detached house having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Situated in a cul de sac location offering well maintained accommodation which briefly comprises: reception hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, conservatory leading to private rear garden. Bathroom with shower over bath, driveway for 1 car. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close £525 pcm - Fees
Wonderfully presented and with its own balcony. A 1st floor modern apartment, ideally located for Old Hill train station and local shops benefits from 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, modern kitchen with washer/dryer, lovely lounge with access to your own private balcony, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Cross Street £495 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented and very close to Halesowen Town Centre. This lovely ground floor maisonette features 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, dining kitchen, brand new bathroom with shower, private rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street £475 pcm - Fees
Set in this quiet residential area close to Blackheath Town Centre is this lovely semi detached home featuring lounge, fitted kitchen with gas oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric heating, parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Hingley Court £460 pcm - Fees
Freshly redecorated and in the centre of Old Hill. This lovely modern apartment features an open plan lounge/kitchen with a washer/dryer and a small fridge, 2 large double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, 1 allocated parking space behind electric gates. Not to be missed. Available now. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Howley Grange Road £450 pcm - Fees
Unfurnished ground floor apartment available in this popular location. The property features gas central heating/ Living room/fitted kitchen with archway through to 1 double bedroom, shower room, allocated parking. Gas (in winter months) and water rates included in the rental. EPC: C



OLDBURY, Mallard Drive £450 pcm - Fees
Well presented modern ground floor one bedroom apartment in this great location close to motorway links and amenities. Reception hall with intercom, lounge, open plan kitchen with appliances, 1 double bedroom with built in wardrobe, shower room, electric storage heaters, communal garden, allocated parking. Not to be missed!! EPC: C



NEW PRICE
CRADLEY HEATH, King Street £440 pcm - Fees
FIRST MONTHS RENT 1/2 PRICE! Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links is this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with a small fridge, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



NEW PRICE
CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road £375 pcm - Fees
FIRST MONTHS RENT 1/2 PRICE! This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill Town Centre and Old Hill Train Station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking, NO REAR GARDEN. EPC: D

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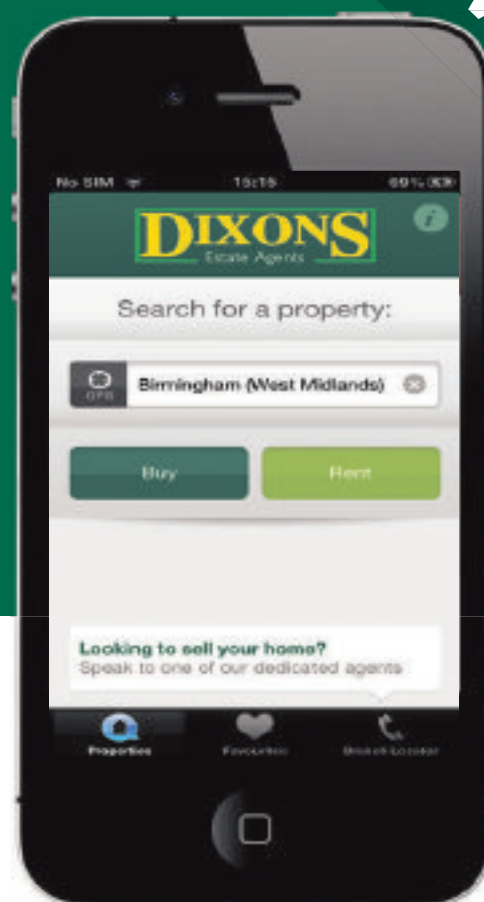
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The Broadway, Dudley



£190,000

Semi detached four bedroom property briefly comprising two reception rooms, large rear garden, garage and off road parking. Viewing recommended.

Thetford Close, Tipton



£180,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising two reception rooms, conservatory, front and rear gardens, car port and off road parking.

Willetts Drive, Halesowen



£175,000

This modern detached house comprises three bedrooms, family bathroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, garden, garage and off road parking.

Toll End Road, Tipton



£160,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising master bedroom with en-suite, front and rear gardens, garage and off road parking.

New Rowley Road, Dudley



£160,000

Dixons are pleased to offer this well presented detached three bedroom home with front and rear gardens, garage and off road parking.

Bradleys Lane, Wallbrook



£150,000

Semi detached five bedroom property comprising lounge/diner, study, kitchen/diner, downstairs W.C., utility, two en-suite's and a family bathroom.

Manson Drive, Cradley Heath



£150,000

A spacious townhouse comprising three bedrooms, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, garden, garage and off road parking. Viewing recommended.

Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath



£140,000

A modern three bedroom semi detached property comprising two reception rooms, conservatory, fitted kitchen, garden, garage and off road parking.

Mendip Road, Halesowen



£125,000

A rare opportunity to buy a coach house style flat with fabulous private rear garden on the Squirrels development. Viewing recommended.

Clent Hill Drive, Rowley Regis



£115,000

A modern house set in a popular cul-de-sac and offering vacant possession. Comprising two bedrooms and private rear garden.

Kendrick Place, Bilston



£110,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, front and rear gardens, garage and off road parking.

Highgate, Dudley



Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising kitchen, utility area, rear garden and off road parking.

Bromsgrove Street, Halesowen



£100,000

Three bedroom semi detached property offering vacant possession. Comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, garage and rear garden.

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CLOISTER DRIVE, HALESOWEN,

NO CHAIN

- Executive Style Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Study Breakfast Kitchen Cloakroom
- Master Bedroom With En-suite Three Further Bedrooms Family Bathroom
- Driveway Double Garage Front and Rear Gardens
- Cul-de-sac Location No Upward Chain Viewing Recommended

£329,950 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

OAKHAM AVENUE, DUDLEY,

- Extended Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Utility Room Downstairs Shower Room W/c
- Four Bedrooms Family Bath Shower Room W/c
- Black Paved Drive Garage and Garden To The Rear
- Property Internal Viewing Highly Recommended To Appreciate Accommodation

£237,950 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

SISKIN CLOSE, OLDBURY,

NO CHAIN

- Modern Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge, Dining Room Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Cloaks W/c
- Four Bedrooms Master With En-suite Shower Room plus Family Bathroom
- Property Benefits From Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Integral Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

£224,950 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

RIDGACRE LANE, QUINTON,

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Fitted Kitchen Utility Room Grd Floor W/c
- Three Well Proportioned Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Driveway Pleasant Rear Garden
- Internal Viewing Recommended To Appreciate Accommodation

£190,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

KERERWIN CLOSE, CRADLEY HEATH,

NEW

- Modern Three Storey Town House EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen Conservatory Cloaks W/c To Ground Floor
- Master Bedroom With Ensuite Shower Room To 1st Floor
- Two Further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom W/c To First Floor
- Side Garage Driveway and Garden To The Rear

£175,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

FAIRFIELD ROAD, HALESOWEN,

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating F
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms Separate W/c
- Benefiting From Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear

£170,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

MOORS CROFT, BARTLEY GREEN,

REDUCED

- Modern Link Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen Dining Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms Master Having En-suite plus Family Bathroom W/c
- Property Benefits From Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating System
- Side Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

£150,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

SIMMONS DRIVE, QUINTON,

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Well Presented Property Internal Viewing Recommended

£120,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

YORK ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS,

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen Dining Room Utility Room Cloaks W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

£120,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

FLEMING ROAD, QUINTON,

S.S.T.C.

- Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Kitchen Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Driveway Providing Off Road Parking To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Property Benefits From Double Glazing and Gas Fired Central Heating

£114,950 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

HURST GREEN ROAD, HALESOWEN,

NEW

- Three Storey Town House EPC Rating D
- Grand Floor Reception Room and Integral Garage
- Lounge Kitchen and Bathroom To First Floor
- Master Bedroom With En-suite plus Two Further Bedrooms To Second Floor
- Drive To Front Garden To The Rear Property Benefits From No Upward Chain

£110,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

BARTLEY GREEN,

NO CHAIN

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom
- Driveway Garage Front and Rear Gardens
- Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain

£110,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

FOREDRAFT CLOSE, WOODGATE VALLEY,

S.S.T.C.

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen Conservatory Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Drive and Garden To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Property Benefits From No Upward Chain Internal Viewing Recommended

£108,500 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

BEECHDALE, PERRY HILL RD, OLDBURY,

NEW

- First Floor Apartment EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom
- Property Benefits From Electric Heating and is Part Double Glazed
- Externally There Are Communal Gardens and Non Allocated Parking Area
- Property Further Benefits From A Garage En-bloc and No Upward Chain

£100,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

PERRY COURT, HAGLEY ROAD WEST, OLDBURY,

NO CHAIN

- Grd Floor Retirement Apartment EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Communal Gardens Non Allocated Parking Area
- Only Available To Over 55's
- Benefits From Having No Upward Chain

£80,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

WATERWAYS DRIVE, OLDBURY,

NO CHAIN

- Spacious Ground Floor Apartment EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Property Has A Private Rear Garden and Allocated Parking
- Internal Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

£80,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

THE HILL, WOODGATE VALLEY,

NO CHAIN

- Extended Ground Floor Flat EPC Rating D
- Open Plan Living/Dining Room and Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Internal Viewing Recommended To Appreciate Accommodation

£79,950 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

GUARDIAN HOUSE, HAGLEY RD WEST, OLDBURY

NEW

- Second Floor Retirement Apartment EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen Bedroom Shower Room
- Security Gated Communal Parking Area To The Rear
- Benefits From Security Entry Phone System And Emergency Pull Chords
- Black Benefits From Having A Lift, Laundry Room and Communal Gardens

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ELM CROFT, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

EXTENDED semi-detached home in CUL-DE-SAC location and having 3 DOUBLE bedrooms. EXTENDED & REFITTED breakfast kitchen. EXTENDED 18ft lounge, dining room & study. REFITTED family bathroom with white suite. SOUTH facing rear garden. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1481

£194,950 Ref: D1481

APSLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

EXTENDED home with GARAGE & driveway. EXTENDED 20ft dining room & 14ft lounge. EXTENDED 17ft kitchen & utility room. 3 bedrooms & bathroom with white suite. UPVC DG & gas central heating. Patio and lawn gardens to rear. EPC rating: D Ref: D1382

£162,950 Ref: D1382

ARTHUR HARRIS CL, SMETHWICK

NEW

MODERN semi-detached home in CUL-DE-SAC position. 15ft lounge diner to rear with kitchen to front and downstairs WC. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms on 1st floor. SOUTH FACING rear garden with shrubs & artificial grass. GARAGE & driveway to front. Gas central heating & majority UPVC double glazing. EPC rating: D Ref: D1495

£159,950 Ref: D1495

MARION ROAD, SMETHWICK

NEW PRICE

MODERNISED semi-detached home on CORNER PLOT position close to LOCAL PARK. REFITTED 12ft kitchen & 26ft lounge diner. REFITTED family bathroom and 3 bedrooms on first floor. DRIVEWAY to front. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1477

£158,000 Ref: D1477

BARSTON ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

NO CHAIN - EXTENDED semi detached home with block paved DRIVEWAY. 27ft lounge diner, kitchen & side veranda/utility area. 3 bedrooms & refitted family bathroom. Enclosed rear garden with vehicular access. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. Situated in popular residential area. EPC rating: D Ref: D1470

£149,950 Ref: D1470

RIDGACRE ROAD, QUINTON

NEW

NO UPWARD CHAIN. 24ft lounge diner. REFITTED kitchen & lean to veranda to rear. POTENTIAL to extend to rear. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom with WHITE SUITE on 1st floor. Garden to front. Lawn garden to rear with SOUTHERLY aspect. Gas central heating & double glazing. EPC rating: D Ref: D1507

£139,950 Ref: D1507

WORLDS END LANE, QUINTON

NEW

Traditional semi-detached home with DRIVEWAY to front giving off road parking. POTENTIAL to extend to the rear. REFITTED kitchen & 2 reception rooms. REFITTED bathroom with white suite & 3 bedrooms on 1st floor. Lawn rear garden with south westerly aspect & potential for garage to rear. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1504

£139,950 Ref: D1504

KITWELL LANE, BARTLEY GREEN

NEW PRICE

NO UPWARD CHAIN - VACANT POSSESSION. 4th floor flat with SPACIOUS rooms. 18ft lounge diner & separate kitchen. 14ft DOUBLE bedroom with separate bathroom. Gas central heating fitted (not tested). Lift access. EPC rating: C Ref: D1458

£34,950 Ref: D1458

WOODGREEN ROAD, OLDBURY

TO LET

PART FURNISHED - AVAILABLE END OF SEPTEMBER - SPACIOUS DETACHED PROPERTY. Lounge & separate dining room. Kitchen, utility and DWG. 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, box room & bathroom. Ample off road parking, garage & large store. Gardens to rear. NO DSS. SMOKERS OR PETS - EPC Rating: E. Admin fee £100 per tenant. Ref: DL103

£750 PCM Ref: DL103

ELM CROFT, OLDBURY

TO LET

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY - Much improved semi with OFF ROAD PARKING. Lounge, Separate Dining room, REFITTED KITCHEN. 3 bedrooms and REFITTED. GCH & DBG. NO DSS. SMOKERS OR PETS - EPC Rating: D Admin fee £100 Per Tenant. Ref: DL174

£675 PCM Ref: DL174

WIGORN ROAD, SMETHWICK

TO LET

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY - Superbly presented traditional style terrace. Lounge, separate dining room, kitchen & downstairs bathroom. Three bedrooms. Lovely garden with sunny aspect. Gas central heating & UPVC DBG. NO DSS, NO PETS, NO SMOKERS. EPC Rating: D - Subject to admin fee of £100 per tenant. Ref: DL176

£650 PCM Ref: DL176

TIBBATS CLOSE, BARTLEY GREEN

TO LET

SPACIOUS mid terraced home in CUL-DE-SAC location. 15ft lounge & 16ft kitchen diner. Benefits from downstairs WC, 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms & family bathroom. Lawn garden to both front & rear. Gas Central Heating & UPVC double glazing. EPC rating: D NO DSS. PETS ALLOWED. ADMIN FEES £100 PER TENANT PLUS £150 PAYABLE TO THE LANDLORD Ref: DL175

£600 PCM Ref: DL175

Residential Sales & Lettings

New Sorento breaks cover

By Graham Breeze

The third generation Kia Sorento was unveiled in Korea this week, delivering a premium look to build on the success of the outgoing model.

The new Sorento boasts a smoother, swept-back profile with more space and numerous innovative features.

The styling changes alter the character of the new Sorento, highlighting its sleek profile and giving the new model a bolder on-the-road presence.

There are long, wrap-around headlamps and more prominent fog-lamps, as well as a larger, more upright 'tiger-nose' grille, with a distinctive three-dimensional

diamond pattern, first featured on the 2013 Kia Cross GT concept.

In profile, the new model retains the Sorento's hallmark long bonnet and characteristic wide D-pillar, but a lower roofline, higher beltline and swept-back shape give the car a more dramatic, muscular stance.

Inside the all-new Sorento is where some of the most significant improvements are to be found.

The styling of the cabin follows a modern and wide theme with a wraparound dashboard with soft-touch materials and leather creating a modern luxury feel, giving the new Sorento a genuine premium vehicle feel.

Increase

Although the roofline is 15mm lower, repositioned seat cushions ensure increased headroom and legroom for occupants in all three rows. Cargo space also increases.

Available in five- or seven-seat versions, the new Sorento features 40/20/40 second row split folding for improved versatility, with a higher folding centre armrest.

The model debuts a number of new, advanced on-board technologies such as an all around view monitor, with four cameras and a power tailgate which opens the tailgate automatically when the key is 'sensed' in close proximity to the trunk.

Five engines will be available depending on country, offering power outputs ranging from 172 to 270 ps.

These include a 2.4-litre petrol direct injection (GDI) unit, 2.4-litre and 3.3-litre multi-point injection (MPI) engines, and re-



.....
'Inside the all-new Sorento is where some of the most significant improvements are to be found

vised 2.0-litre and 2.2-litre 'R' turbo-diesel units.

Of these, only the 2.2-litre turbo-diesel and 2.4-litre GDI engines will be sold in Europe, with the diesel unit expected to account for the majority of sales. Final decisions on the UK line-up are yet to be made.

Buyers of the new Sorento will be able to choose from a wealth of safety technologies - depending on market.

Available systems will include: ASCC

(Adaptive Smart Cruise Control); LDWS (Lane Departure Warning System); FCW (Front Collision Warning); BSD (Blind-Spot Detection); LCA (Lane Change Assist); RCTA (Rear Cross-Traffic Alert) and SLIF (Speed Limit Information Function) based on cameras detecting roadside signs.

Following its unveiling in Korea, the all-new Kia Sorento will make its European premiere on October 2 at the 2014 Paris Motor Show.



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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki SX4 S-Cross range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 39.7-55.3 (7.1-5.1), Extra Urban 55.3-76.3 (5.1-3.7), Combined 47.8-67.2 (5.9-4.2), CO₂ emissions 135-110 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 S25 available at £19,749 on the road. SX4 S-Cross range - SX4 S-Cross 1.6 S23 Manual available at £14,999 to SX4 S-Cross 1.6 DDIS S25 ALLGRIP Manual available at £23,549. The features referred to in this advertisement and all specifications and equipment may vary depending on engine, transmission and model grade. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. On the road price valid from 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014. Model shown - SX4 S-Cross 1.6 S25 Manual (metallic paint available at £430). For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. †ALL GRIP 4-wheel Drive option available on 1.6 petrol S25 and DDIS S2-T & S25 models. Model shown: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 S25 available from £19,749. **Offer applies to private customers and the first registered vehicle only; 3 routine manufacturer services covering 3 years or 37,500 miles (whichever comes sooner) by Suzuki franchised dealers or service partners only. Terms & Conditions apply, see Suzuki.co.uk/cars/freeservicing for details. Offer available on registrations of Suzuki SX4 S-Cross between 1st September 2014 and 30th September 2014, subject to availability, at Suzuki franchised dealers based in the UK, Channel Islands, Shetland and Isle of Man only. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated.



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Finance example: Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Diesel, Cash Price £4995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 12% APR, 48 Payments of £122.28 (£30.50 per week) Total amount payable £6169.44 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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DRIVETIME



Clear move from diesels

New car buyers are moving back towards petrol engines after years of diesel domination, if Ford's latest sales figures are any guide.

The company has revealed that its multi-award-winning 1.0-litre Ecoboost turbocharged petrol engine now powers one in every five cars sold in Europe, totalling 120,000 vehicles from January to the end of June.

That figure is an increase from 104,000 1.0-litre Ecoboost-powered cars sold in the same period in 2013.

Within the statistics there is a clear move away from diesel in some sectors, with the B-Max showing 47 per cent of sales going to the smallest Ecoboost unit. One third (33 per cent) of Focus buyers also went for the same engine.

"Customers are clearly enjoying the benefits from a small engine that offers great fuel efficiency with no compromise to refinement or performance,"

said Barb Samardzich, chief operating officer, Ford of Europe.

"The range of models offering the 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine will rise to 11 when the all-new Mondeo is launched in the coming months, and the new 140 PS version in the Fiesta Red Edition and Black Edition shows there is even more potential."

The engine is the first to win the international Engine of the Year accolade three times running, and is available in 99bhp, 123bhp and 138bhp versions according to model choice.

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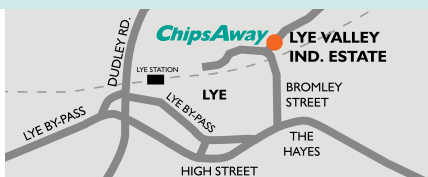
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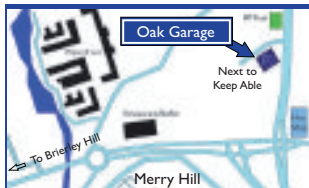
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Supplied and Fitted £195
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12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!

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Verticals or Rollers
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C & M BUILDERS All types of build-
ing work. Extensions, Plastering
etc. 07473 135856, 07463 849342.

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Established 1957
MAJOR SUPPLIER AND FITTER OF ALL TIMBER FENCING, GATES,
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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
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pets corner

AVIARY PANELS. 6ft x 3ft. 10, £15
each. 2 with doors, 5 each.
01384 350735 or 07894 938864.

BEAUTIFUL TABBY Kittens, ready
now. £30 to ensure good home.
07765 807608.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
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Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the
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2. Do not arrange to collect a
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than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
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Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
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liability should readers
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BORDER COLLIE PUPS.
Black/white, Red/white and a tri
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COCKATIELS FOR SALE. babies
and adults, from £25.
Telephone 01902 823086.

COCKER SPANIEL puppy bitch,
black, 12 wks, vacc, microchipped,
KC reg. 07854 471388.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER Puppies. KC
Reg. insured. 1st and 2nd cross
temperaments. Ideal pet/gun dog,
holidays honoured. 07875 331160
or 01905 336363.

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Shepherds.
Staffies.
Beagles.
Boxer Cross.
Border Collies.
Border Collie Puppies.
Also Cross breeds.

We know the history and
temperament of these lovely
dogs.
Come and see us.
01588 676106.
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

SADIE
A special home is needed for
Sadie an adorable golden
curley coated little Yorkie cross.

Sadly Sadie has been
traumatised by young children
and needs a forever new home
with someone who can give her
the love she so deserves.

If you feel you are that person,
please call me on
01384 252158.

TORTOISE 18 month old complete
set up, 4ft vivarium, heat lamp ther-
mostat ect. £225. Cost over £500.
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Excellent temperament. Both
parents. Ready now. 01948 662784

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Zebra finches £5 for 2.
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4 Pets & Animals

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check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

AS NEW Set of cob harness.
£275.
07761 379384.

AS NEW Breaking in Cart. For 13 to
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£425.
07761 379384.

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BLACK AND WHITE Cob Gelding, 4
years old, good to handle for the
Family. £325. 07761 379384.

ENVILLE RIDE Sep 14, 10am till
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Excellent temperament. Both
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01902 798969.

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Auctioneers & Valuers

ALL ITEMS WANTED FOR AUCTION OR CASH PAID

WE WANT - jewellery, watches, antiques, coins,
medals, clocks, tools, ceramics, glassware, cars,
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Model Railway, Star Wars, Barbie/Sindy, Lego etc.
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and adults, from £25.
Telephone 01902 823086.

COCKER SPANIEL puppy bitch,
black, 1

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

commercial premises

Business Premises To Let

Excellent Kingswinford office space to let on a rolling short term basis. Prestigious High Street address with parking for up to three vehicles. This top floor space comprises of two rooms totalling approximately 28 square metres. Access to kitchen and lift. Existing furniture included if required. Ideal for small service business with around 1-3 employees. **£150.00 + VAT per week.**

Email: info@charlesdesign.co.uk

6 Property

properties wanted

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

OFF TETTENHALL Road, 2 bed Flat CH, DG. Off road parking. £115.50 pwk. 01902 340073/07770 660636

OLDBURY/Blackheath, 2/3 bed flat / house, deposit/rent neg. 0121 550064 or 07970 980955.

ONE BED flats in Penn, fully DG, full GCH, refurbished throughout, modern kitchen / bathroom, sorry no DSS/pets. 07876 515624.

ONE BED Large fully furnished flat. With garden. Brierley Hill. DY5. No DSS. £85 p.w. 07930 508309.

ONE BEDROOM first flat to rent. Hellier Road, Bushbury, cooker, washing machine, fridge, freezer, shower, £450pcm. 07970 635881.

TIPTON & DUDLEY Modern 1 and 2-bed flats. DSS OK. Call or text 07754 076795.

TWO BED Semi with loft bedroom, Penn, Wolverhampton, nice area £495pcm. 07730 565912.

bungalows

LLANGYNIEW, MID WALES

Superb chalet bungalow. Fully residential, 3 beds. Fully double glazed and central heating. Lovely gardens, all round with a view over the valley.

£85,000 ono.

Telephone 01938 811194.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

houses for sale

INNAGE LANE BRIDGNORTH

Recently extended and totally refurbished double glazed bungalow, includes large kitchen / diner, four bedrooms one en-suite, under floor heating, radiators, double garage. Good sized gardens. Well positioned. No chain.

£350,000 ono

07763 185826

mobile homes

HOLIDAY CHALET

11 month season, 2014 site fees paid. Mid Wales near Welshpool Powys, well appointed and maintained, 2-bed Omar Park Home, GCH, DG, elevated position with fantastic views. Beautiful site with swimming pool and fishing lake, games room and tennis court.

Offers in the region of **£48,000.**

Ring **07795 160773.**

PARK HOME Stately Albion, 2 bed, en suite + bathroom, double unit, Shrewsbury / Oswestry, £120,000. 01691 682118. 07975 643737.

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We Pay 100% of Purchase Price

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- We are a family run local business.**
- A fair offer from people you can trust.**
- No fees - Free solicitors**

Call Stan on 01902 628047 or 0800 032 1718

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WE PAY MORE!

We are a local independent Company

CallFree **0800 169 1118** (24 hrs)

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- Any condition • Any area*
- Repossessions Stop
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* Terms apply

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- ANY AREA
- ANY CONDITION

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*Subject to terms

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It's as simple as that, you will get the best deal on your home from

FIRST GENERAL HOMES Call 24/7 **0800 9171233**

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ONE BEDROOM BRAND NEW LUXURY PARK HOME On select country park in Coven.

Nice gardens, GCH, DG. Private parking on new driveway, canal walks, nice views.

Semi retired / retired only.

Call 07971 307903.

LOOK

7

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CAR & TRAILER (B+E)

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part time - general

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£200-£2,000 pm - 0121 314 9652.
www.bercher.info

FORD FUSION 1.4 TDCi

ZETEC CLIMATE
2006/06 reg, black, 7 months tax and MoT, 19 months warranty.
£3,300 o.n.o.
01902 747594/07834 494633.

FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi. 2009. Auto, silver, Tax till end of year, MoT till July 2015, FSH. Very good condition. £4,600. ono. 07734 330551



FORD STREETKA CONVERTIBLE

04, 62k, metallic silver, leather, 6CD, alloys, a/c, abs, electric, fsh, MoT, new clutch, central locking, pas, tax, lady owner, stunning.
£1,550
07985 551666.

MAZDA MX5 sports convertible, 2003, MoT June 2015, beautiful condition, manual 5 speed, £1,995. 01384 873411 or 07711 688220.

MINI ONE 2005, 95000 miles, silver, 11 months MoT, 5 months tax, £2,400.00 ono. 07725 979984

PEUGEOT 206 Allure CC cabriolet, petrol, silver, 07 plate, very good condition, 53,000 miles, £3,650 ono. 01902 662027.

PEUGEOT 206, silver, a/c, e/w, radio/CD, clean, one previous owner, long MoT, £1,675 ono. 01902 426256 or 07429 999105.

PEUGEOT 207 SPORTUM HDI 2010, 3-dr hatchback, diesel, 1.6, 32,000 miles, tax and MoT, £6,295. 01902 662747.

ECONOMICAL

PEUGEOT 308

2008, 51,000 miles, black, abs, CD, stereo, tax, MoT, a/c.
£5,000 ono.

Telephone 07984 615774.

RENAULT CLIO Campus Sport I-Music, 1149cc, 3dr hatch, 56 plate, 66,125 miles, 12 months MoT, Tax Jan. £2,000 ono. 07940 733845.



RENAULT MEGANE

2006, 84,900 Miles, blue, abs, ew, air bag, electric mirrors, AC, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, diesel, tax, Alloys, Stereo, CD, Re - Mapped
£2,295 ono.
07846 415668

RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE

57 plate, 52K, full electric panoramic roof, 1.5 diesel, FSH, AC, tax & MoT, cheap tax, very economical.
£3,500 ono.
07775 602525.

ROVER 75 CDTi, Saloon, 2004, 94,500 miles, leather, all electric, tow bar, MoT and tax, good condition, £1,850 ono. 07921 507473.

TOYOTA AVENTIS 2.0 Diesel, 54 reg, metallic gold, AC, 160,000 miles, MoT till Feb. £1,550. 07817 516885.

TOYOTA VERSO SR

2009, 41,200 Miles, silver abs electric mirrors air con long MOT central locking cruise control diesel tax 7 seats
£7,250
01902 838651

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6, new shape, 2010, dark silver, 29,100 miles, warranty, excellent throughout, £6,250. 07771 685799.

VAUXHALL TIGRA CONVERTIBLE 1.4

2009, heated leather seats, 20,000 miles, full spec.
£5,700.
Kingswinford area.
07568 590649.

VAUXHALL CORSA Club. 1.4. Automatic, 58 reg, blue, 32,000 miles, long MoT, just serviced. £4,000. 01902 567630.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8i ELITE SEVEN SEATER

2010, top of the range, fantastic family car, black full leather interior, heated seats, cruise control, EW, EM, Bluetooth handsfree, steering wheel mounted audio controls, parking aid, fsh, taxed February 2015, MoT May 2015.

£7,290. o.n.o.
01902 701300
or
07545 769813

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 1.2, 3 door, blue '54 plate, 40,000 Miles, ABS, long MoT, one lady owner, digital radio/CD. £900 ono. 01902 786396

FORD FIESTA, 2004, 88,000 miles, black, electric windows, long MoT, central locking, pas, £1,195. 07944 438513.

FORD FIESTA Zetec, 2000, 5 door, silver, MoT March 2015, taxed, FSH, extremely low mileage, two owners, £695. 01384 270962.

FORD FOCUS Estate, 54 plate, 1.8, good condition, tax and MoT, £750 ono. 01902 689071.

KIA SEDONA DIESEL AUTO 04 reg, 11 months MoT, 3 months tax, silver, tow bar, tinted windows, parking sensors, difficult starting needs heater plugs, £1,150. 01543 573939 / 07733 063247.

FORD KA 2003, black, MoT, Tax, radio-CD player. Excellent condition. £650. ono. 07813 932880.

MAZDA 323 1.8 EXECUTIVE 1997, 5dr, hatchback, tax May 2015, MoT May 2015, 65,000 miles, ex excellent condition £925. 07825 845146.

PEUGEOT 106, 2001, 57,000 miles, blue, long MoT, tax, CD player, recent service, excellent runner, ideal first. £700 ono. 07972 009230.

PEUGEOT 206 GLX 1.6 5Dr, 56,000 miles, 2 owners, 9 months MoT, EW, PAS, really good condition, £765. 07850 113660.

PEUGEOT 206 (05), 5dr, petrol, EW, A/C, CD, long MoT, 1 previous owner low miles, £1,475. Excellent condition. 01902 426256 / 07429 999105

PEUGEOT 406 Est. SE, 110 HDi, 03, 148,000 miles, long MoT/Tax. Reliable car. Few faults. Hence price £625 ono. 07791 808779.

FOR A QUICK SALE

SKODA OCTAVIA SIVERLINE

2004, grey, 2 owners, 42k miles, Tax and MoT till Jan 2015, service history, 1.6 petrol, excellent condition. £1,200 ono. 01384 829176.

VW GOLF 1.4, 3 door, 1999, full MoT, tax February, 67,000 miles, service history, tidy car, £695. Telephone 07384 297114.

classic cars

CLASSIC CARS WANTED Private cash buyer Instant cash settlement. Any age, any condition. Call Market Drayton. 01630 652993.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 2005, 88,000 miles, blue, electric windows, air con, alarm, MoT, sensors. £2,650. 07766 202607.

VAUXHALL COMBO Isuzu diesel, taxed and MoT'd, well above average condition, new cam belt, clutch and pump, ready for work. £850 o.n.o. 01902 829438.

driving tuition



Homer's

Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.

10 Hours £291 Five Hours £501

2 Hours £201 All Areas Covered

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AD/PI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available.

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01562 870050 / 01384 234954

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motorbikes

ROYAL ENFIELD BULLET 500

Classic, 2009, 2,700 dry miles, as new condition, long tax and MoT, £2,500. 07944 903675.

YAMAHA DT125R 01, T & T, full engine rebuild, powder coated frame etc. Best in West Mids. £1,745 ono. 07914 903631.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

1st CHOICE

TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!

VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!

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FREE COLLECTION

WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS

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07977 499516

07895 346811 - 24 hrs

full time - general

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self motivated,
enthusiastic,
confident...

Have you got what it takes?

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Do you have an eye for detail, are you self-motivated, enthusiastic and are able to communicate effectively and with confidence.

The Express & Star and Shropshire Star are looking for a team of sales relationship merchandisers to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicants will work as part of a team, in designated territories, you will be required to ensure that all our titles are available, in key strategic positions to maximise response and exposure.

Previous sales or merchandising experience in the FMCG market is desirable, but not essential. The ability to react quickly and positively to a wide variety of situations is required. A professional attitude must be displayed at all times. You must have a full current driving licence, transport will be provided.

In return we offer full training and support,

an annual salary of £15,000 pro rata, 25 days holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

All positions are 20 hours per week worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis.

If you would like to be considered for one of these roles please send your CV and covering letter to:

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Queen Street
Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

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9
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10
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personal



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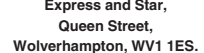


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MARIA tall, blonde, elegant,
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dancing, weekends away,
theatre, cinema. Seeks
attractive tall gent with similar
interests to share quality times
together maybe more. Text
Only Mailbox Box No:
4477544

EMS 32yrs petite young
looking, pretty, likes swimming,
walking, talking etc, seeking
honest bloke or dad up to
40yrs for fun adult friendship.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 413853

MAUREEN, discreet sensual
lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun
at her home. ACA. Tel No:
0905 002 1961 Box No:
405297

NATALIE 22yrs attractive
brunette nurse, very slim,
athletic figure, many likes, few
dislikes, WLTm male up to
38yrs to stay at home and have
some fun with. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 413839

SALLY, 36yrs, married but
husband works away seeks
discreet gent any age for fun
only. Text only Box: 4492484

MAZ 36 petite curvy big blue
eyes, loves music, beach
walks, cosy nights with good
conversation and nice wine,
seeks similar likeminded male.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 413571

ANNA, busty mature lady
seeks no strings discreet
meetings with male any age or
location. Tel No: 0905 002
1956 Box No: 366019

HELEN feisty redhead with
many interests including beach
walks and quiet nights in,
looking for male with GSOH
and a passion for travel. Tel
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
413869

PHILLY, 20yrs, just left
college, seeks older man for
daytime fun, must be discreet
as she has strict parents. Text
only Box: 4492485

ANN slim attractive widowed
but not past being loved lady,
loves travel, country good
conversation, WLTm kind
genuine male, 35-65 for ltr. Tel
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
413453

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty,
27yrs, own home, very very
adventurous seeks no strings
fun and frolics. Can
accommodate and will answer
all calls. Tel No: 0905 002
1957 Box No: 410127

JANET tall beautiful brunette,
slim 12, separated, enjoys life,
no hang ups, wanting quality
time, friendship and possible
romance with similar guy. Tel
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
413415

LINDY, 43yrs young, married
with husband away. Seeks
discreet gent any age for no
strings. Box 4459439 Text only

ANITA seeking nice man in the
West Midlands, 50-70 for
companionship, maybe more.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 413765

JAN 58yrs slim pretty lady in
great shape, open-minded,
laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many
interests, WLTm someone for
cuddling up with and to share
good and bad times. ACA. Tel
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412931

SONYA slim attractive vibrant
lady with GSOH, social nature,
fit/active, WLTm N/S male up
to 60yrs for romantic genuine
respectful relationship, loving.
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SOPHIA very sensual black
lady looking to acquire a new
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VICKY 37yr professional, mum
to one, sensual and very
attractive, looking for a real
man, tall, fit, sincere and
passionate to enjoy each
other's company. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 411695

ANN, young looking 40yrs
seeks broadminded man of
any age/location for no strings
discreet times, games and
more. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002
1937 Box No: 412369

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blonde 22yrs, likes cinema,
dancing/music, just chillin',
seeking easygoing male for fun
and good times but nothing
serious. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 413207

JENNI, sensual lady, 23yrs
seeks mature experienced
man for no strings, daytime
fun. Box 4459440 Text only

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0906 500 3955 Box No:
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loves pubs, cosy nights in,
kids, seeking special honest
guy/dad for poss ltr. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No:
413005

ROSA 27 sexy senorita
seeking older handsome
prince charming to whisk me
off my feet, enjoy fun times,
improve my English and fall in
love with. Age/race
unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 412927

SUSIE discreet married lady,
young 36yrs seeks
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No: 4483977

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JOHN 40's, tall, athletic, active,
adventurous, cheeky, tactile,
fun, own teeth, loves life, seeks
similar fun female. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No:
414067

34YR old slim, dark haired,
creative, adventurous, likes
music, cycling and
photography, seeks likeminded
female to share fun and
happiness with. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 352753

SEAN 47, 5ft 8ins, average
looks, seeking genuine,
honest, caring female. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No:
413945

PHIL 57, medium build, seeks
female for friendship, no fun
more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955
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MALE 49, 6ft, seeks lady for discreet fun times. Must accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413819

GENT widower, late 60's, looks younger, GSOH, likes music, good food, country pursuits, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413173

BLACK guy 68, feels 45, looks 40, seeks female, 58-71, GSOH, genuine, caring for fun times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413375

TALL Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for friendship plus, interesting chap, discreet days in and nights out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413315

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413183

TONY young looking 50's male, 5ft 8ins, many interests, easy going, seeks slim rock chick or similar for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413275

6FT tins slim, dark hair, likes walking, animals, seeking medium build female, 60-80 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413193

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Thirds finish as league champs

Warwick & Worcs Alliance Division 2
Kings Heath Park 199
The George 190

Despite going down to a nine-shot defeat at Kings Heath Park in their last match of the season the third team finished as league champions and gained promotion to division one.

This is a great achievement for the team as they are playing in a league against other clubs second teams.

On the day the best winners for The George were junior county players Liam Hickman and Will Freeman who both won 21-8. To round off a great season Dave James 21-12 win saw him win the divisions averages.

Dudley League Division 1

The George Bowling Clubs Dudley League team had a magnificent season winning one of the strongest mid-week leagues in the Midlands.

Captained by Stewart Meddings the team won 19 of their 22 matches to finish the season 34 points in front of their closest rivals.

Marc Wilson also finished the season as the league's top player by winning 20 of the 21 games he played.

Tipton to go on in Vase run

Tipton 2 Hinckley 1

A young Tipton Town side progressed to the next round of the FA Vase.

Tipton took the lead in only the eighth minute through Jordan Harrison.

And Hinckley were coming more and more into the play until the 29th minute when home skipper John Haynes's corner beat defenders on the line to creep into the corner of the net for 2-0.

Visiting skipper, Luke Richards went close to pegging the home side back in the 35th minute, driving inches wide of the home goal but six minutes before the break, Hinckley punished some untidy Tipton defending to pull a goal back through Mark Bellingham.

Defence holds out to keep Yeltz at bay

Halesowen Town 0 Workington 1

A bumper Non-League Day attendance of 768 packed into the Grove but Halesowen failed to break down a resolute Workington defence.

It was a solitary second-half goal which sent the recently relegated Cumbrians home with all three points.

The Yeltz started brightly and the visitors had an 11th minute let off when Elliott Turner fired in an excellent shot from the edge of the area only to see it rebound off the inside of the post even with goalkeeper Jonny Jamieson beaten.

Home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant then

Football

saved low down after Scott Allison whipped in a 14th minute free-kick and a 27th minute header from Lee Andrews was cleared off the home goal-line.

After half-time, Turner hit a promising free-kick against Workington's defensive wall and Robert Thompson-Brown's clever cross was cleared to safety.

But both sides cancelled each other out for long periods with the game presenting few clear-cut goal-scoring opportunities

and the deadlock remained. However, Matt Tymon snatched Workington's solitary 65th minute winning goal with a far post tap-in.

The goal came after Sargeant saved Tymon's initial effort and Connor Thomson's follow-up was also kept out.

Sargeant was again called into action when he then had to tip another 20-yard Thomson shot at goal over the home bar.

In the later stages Halesowen launched a series of long deliveries in an attempt to rescue the game.

However, the predictable approach failed to really trouble the solid Workington cen-

tral defence and they held on to their single goal lead despite the Yeltz best efforts.

After a long throw-in from Tom Tonks fell for substitute Ben Haseley to chip just wide in the 81st minute, workman-like Workington were soon celebrating their first away win for 17 months.

Halesowen: Sargeant; Green, Charlton (Hull 89), Turner, Kettle, Tilt (c), Bragoli, Tonks, Christie (Haseley 77), Thompson-Brown, Lait (Long 67).

Workington: Jamieson; Simpson (May 86), Rowntree, Andrews, Wordsworth (c), Skelton (Smith 58), Allison, Hindmarsh, Tymon (Coleman 77), Wright, Thomson.

Old Hales see off the league's new boys

Old Halesonians 1sts 26 Lichfield 1sts13

Old Halesonians entertained newly-promoted Lichfield in the league's first game.

After five minutes Hooker Pete Fitzgerald threw to Loz Breeze, who took the ball returned it to the supporting Fitzgerald who carried the ball around the line out and through several tackle attempts for the first try with Chris Hooper converting.

The next 10 minutes was much the same with Hales dominant in forward and back play. Telling runs by Loz Breeze, Owen Jones and Fitzgerald seemed too much for the visitors.

Another combination of forwards and backs made ground. Scrum half Nathan Jones linked well with fly half Matt Williams and on 15 minutes second row Loz Breeze drove over for a try.

For the majority of the spectators it seemed this was going to be a wholly one sided affair. However, Lichfield had other ideas, and seemed to slowly, but surely, rally themselves into a more cohesive unit and started to play with more confidence.

First with a penalty following good work from their hard running backs which resulted in three points from a penalty. After the restart, again the visitors were rewarded with another three points. The battle continued with the Hales pack having the edge with new players Guy Field, second row, Owen Jones and Nigel Burrows on the back row adding power to the set piece,

Lichfield continued to hold their ground and looked well back into the game at

Rugby

half time. Hales needed to regroup, not totally happy with the first half display, Lichfield looked confident and up for the challenge.

The first part of the second half was the same with both teams matching each other in attack and defence.

Replacements took the field in the form of talisman and player coach Mark Evans with debutant Hooker, 18-year-old Callum Young. Evans seemed to steady the ship and build composure from the first lineup.

A loose ball was then gathered by Robinson for a great try converted by Hooper.

Fine support play with Luke Smith on the charge was rewarded when on 73 minutes when Breeze scored his second try, converted by Hooper.

More pressure from Hales forced a penalty for Hooper. Lichfield never gave up and on 82 minutes worked their way up the field for a consolation try. Team Manager Simon Hussey said: "This was an important start for us." Old Hales are away to Longton on Saturday.

Red-hot Heathens tighten grip on trophy



Heathen's Steve Worrall leads team-mate Nathan Greaves at Monore Green. Picture John Hipkiss

CRADLEY took a major step towards retaining their Knockout Cup trophy with a crushing 63-28 win over Coventry in their semi-final first leg at Monmore Green.

The in-form Heathens put in another dominant display to seize control of the tie in an entertaining clash.

The former Dudley Wood outfit claimed the trophy in memorable style on their way to a clean sweep

of honours in 2013. With a 35-point advantage heading into the second leg at Brandon, they look set to reach their third consecutive Grand Final and battle to retain the trophy.

Magnificent maximums from Steve Worrall and Paul Starke led the Heathens to a resounding win against a Coventry side who condemned them to their only defeat of 2014 back in April. Worrall joined forces with teenage star Nathan Greaves to get

Cradley off to a perfect start before fending off a James Sarjeant tactical ride in composed style in heat six.

CRADLEY 63: Paul Starke 15, Steve Worrall 13+2, Tom Perry 9+2, Nathan Greaves 8+2, Max Clegg 8+1, Matt Williamson 6+1, Danny Phillips 4.

COVENTRY 28: James Sarjeant 10+1, Oliver Greenwood 6, Dan Greenwood 5, Martin Knuckey 5, Ryan Terry-Daley 1+1, Luke Priest 1

Fabian could be England regular

VILLA'S Fabian Delph has been encouraged to build on his "fantastic" international debut and establish himself as an England regular.

The 24-year-old has taken plenty of plaudits after impressing in England's 2-0 European Championship qualifying win in Switzerland on Monday.

Among those hailing the midfielder is former Villa favourite Ian Taylor, who has now challenged Delph to push on and stake his claim for a permanent starting place.

"I thought he was fantastic," said Taylor. "For a debut, it was great. In a pressure game he came in and did really well and I think his potential is the key."

"There is plenty more to come from him. He is still learning but I thought he showed a lot of what he has learned on Monday. He has got the chance now to stake his claim for a place in the team."

Delph was a surprise choice to start in the mid-field but did not let manager Roy Hodgson down as England recorded victory in their Group E opener courtesy of Danny Welbeck's brace. And his showing did not come as a shock to Taylor, who says

Okore is ready to come back

JORES OKORE is closing in on a Villa return after turning out for Denmark.

The defender played for more than half an hour as a substitute in his country's 2-1 Euro 2016 qualifying victory over Armenia in Copenhagen.

The 22-year-old also came through 90 minutes of Denmark under-21s' 4-2 victory over Russia last Wednesday.

Despite returning to club action in pre-season, Okore has yet to kick a ball competitively for Villa this season after suffering a cruciate knee ligament injury.

In his absence, Ron Vlaar and Philippe Senderos formed an effective alliance. Okore's last competitive match for Villa was almost a year ago.



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SPORT

Old and new
Hales get first win
under their belt
Page 39

Trophy fever
Heathens hungry to
keep hands on cup
Page 39



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Lescott is back to boost Baggies

JOLEON LESCOTT has paved the way to an Albion debut against former club Everton this weekend after an impressive return to action.

The 32-year-old England international, who has been dogged by knee and calf injuries in his early months at the club, excelled in a behind-closed-doors friendly on Tuesday against the club he rejected for Albion in the summer – fellow Premier League outfit Hull City.

Lescott has returned from a week in the United States where he has been working with fitness specialists who have served him well in the past.

And early this week he completed the 90 minutes against a strong Tigers team.

Head coach Alan Irvine, who watched the game, was delighted with Lescott's progress which has thrown open the chance of a Baggies bleeding against one of his old clubs, Everton, on Saturday.

"Joleon played the 90 minutes and played well – he looked good," said Irvine. "Now we'll see how he feels after the game but it was very encouraging."

"Now it's really important we do not rush him because that could lead to a setback. He's got to be right," added Irvine.

Ex-military in the games

INJURED ex-servicemen from the West Midlands are among more than 400 athletes preparing to take part in the Prince Harry-inspired Invictus Games.

A team of more than 130 competitors from Britain will take part in the Paralympic-style games, which were designed by the prince for people injured while serving in the armed forces.

The team will include wheelchair basketball players Andrew Roberts from Wolverhampton and Rick Powell from Birmingham, cyclist Clive Smith from Hednesford and archer Paul Bennett, from Walsall.

The games were launched on Wednesday night.

The inaugural Invictus Games are being held in London and events will take place in some of the venues used during the 2012 Olympics.

Tivs are feeling a little Mickle-overwhelmed

Tividale FC 1 Mickleover Sports FC 3

TIVIDALE'S unbeaten start in Division One South of the Northern League ended in disappointing fashion at the hands of Mickleover Sports.

Andrew Dales hit a well-taken hat-trick with the three rare moments of quality in the entire contest.

It took the visitors to The Beeches just two minutes to get in front when Dales took advantage of a poor punch from Tividale keeper Charles Price.

He pounced on the loose ball before lobbing it into the unguarded net from the

Football

edge of the box. Tividale failed to respond and it was Mickleover that enjoyed more possession.

They doubled their lead after 25 minutes when Dales hit a fierce dipping effort over Price from just outside the area.

It took the home side until the 41st minute to create their first real effort as forward Karl Edwards dragged a long range shot wide of the post.

Dales' two moments of quality and the

hard-working efforts of Sports' Simeon Oshosoke was the only difference as the half drew to a close.

Tividale started brighter in the second half as they looked for a way back into the game.

On 53 minutes, Jazz Luckie beat two men on the corner of the area but then scuffed his rushed effort past the near post. However, despite a good spell of possession, Tividale failed to create any real openings.

In fact, neither side worked the opposition goalkeeper until Dales completed his hat-trick and put the game beyond Ian

Long's men in the 74th minute. Substitute Walshe collected the ball and fed the Mickleover wideman who made no mistake as he slid the ball past the out-rushing Price.

Tividale did pull one back on the 80th minute mark when substitute Danny Ashton bundled the ball home after good work down the left flank by fellow substitute Nigel Penney.

The assistant referee adjudged the ball had crossed the line despite the defenders' efforts to hack the ball clear. The goal proved only to be a consolation strike as Tividale's unbeaten start was halted.

Tividale changes fortune

Norton United FC 0

Tividale FC 1

TIVIDALE overcame the disappointment of their first defeat of the season on Saturday with a gritty performance against a hard working Norton United.

The second half was a vast improvement to the first and both sides showed more of an attacking intent.

Tividale took the lead on 57 minutes when Jazz Luckie burst through into the box and was brought down.

Left back Zack Foster stepped up and sent Norton keeper Ryan Boot the wrong way.

Norton stormed back and their best passage of play culminated with an absolute pile driver from Niall Green that looked to have been touched on to the bar by Price but the official gave a goal kick.

Tividale then had two great chances to extend their lead in the last 15 minutes. Both times Luckie was one-on-one with Boot but both times Boot pulled off tremendous saves.

In the end the visitors comfortably saw out the game and took away the three points.

FIFA ready to trial TV replays

A TV replay system – allowing football coaches to challenge a referee's decision – may be trialled next year, FIFA president Sepp Blatter has promised.

The 78-year-old said he wanted coaches to be allowed at least one challenge per half. The trial could happen at next year's FIFA Under-20 World Cup.

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ROONEY FORCES YELTZ TO SHARE

Rushall Olympic 1 Halesowen Town 1

A superb individual goal from Nathan Rooney kept the Yeltz from taking all the points in this hard-fought derby.

Rooney equalised with a goal his namesake would have been proud of after Elliot Turner had headed the visitors in front.

The game began with plenty of end-to-end play and Aaron Williams saw his shot saved by Matt Sargeant in the Halesowen goal in only the second minute of the game.

Halesowen responded with a shot of their own from Joel Kettle three minutes later but it sailed over Cameron Belford's bar to keep the gameboard scoreless.

Belford had to act sharpish again to keep out a potential own goal after the ball rebounded off Liam Smith in the tenth minute.

Chipping

The visitors were now on top and took the lead in the twelfth minute when Chris Lait got to the byline before chipping a cross to the back post for Elliot Turner to head home.

The Pics responded well and Asa Charlton went into the referee's book for a foul on Ryan Winwood and the home side made a substitution six minutes before the break when Aaron Farrell replaced Zak Martin.

Four minutes before the interval Aris Christophorou went close with a 35 yard shot which Sargeant had to tip over.

Six minutes into the second half the home side were back on level terms when

Football

Nathan Rooney jinked his way past four players before beating Sargeant with a fine left foot shot from twelve yards out.

Halesowen came back but Belford was alert enough to beat Kettle to the ball to save what would have been a certain tap in.

Both sides made further substitutions and Mitchell Tolley went into the book for a foul on Lait but Belford saved the resultant free kick from Aaron Griffiths.

Man of the Match Aaron Williams came closest to winning the game for the home side after hitting the inside of the post from just outside the box and the

Pics survived a late flurry of corners to earn their fourth draw of the season.

Rushall: Belford, Christophorou, (L) Smith, Tolley, Duggan, (S) Smith, Winwood (Mugisha 75), Rooney (Love 64), Williams, Craner, Martin (Farrell 39) **Unused subs:** Marshall, Danks

Halesowen: Sargeant, Green, Charlton (Griffiths 46), Turner, Kettle (Hill 70), Tilt, Bragoli, Tonks (Long 75), Thompson-Brown, Haseley, Lait.

Jordanne celebrates making history



Champions – Jordanne Whiley, left, and Yui Kamiji celebrate with their trophies after defeating Jiske Griffioen and Aniek Van Koot in their wheelchair women's doubles final at the US Open

HALESOWEN tennis sensation Jordanne Whiley is celebrating after becoming the first-ever British player to complete a calendar Grand Slam by winning the US Open wheelchair women's doubles title.

The 22-year-old and Japanese partner Yui Kamiji beat Dutch pair Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to complete the sweep of Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open crowns.

After most of the match had been played in stifling heat at Flushing Meadows, the players were forced off court when it began to rain heavily with Whiley and Kamiji leading 4-3 in a tense deciding set.

But Whiley and Kamiji won back-to-back games following the re-start to seal the victory. The win was a first in tennis history, with no previous British player having ever won the same event at all four Grand

Slam tournaments in the same year. "I can't describe how it feels to make history. I'm so proud of achieving this for British Tennis."

Whiley, from Halesowen, was one of three Brits on the Tennis Foundation's Wheelchair Tennis Performance Programme competing at Flushing Meadows this week.

"We had a really good first set but dipped in the second and I'm just so glad we pulled it out in the third."

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